

Briefing for Southwark Health & Social Care Scrutiny Sub-Committee

Southwark Primary Care Trust - Annual health check 2005/06

Summary

- Southwark PCT has been rated as **FAIR** for both the quality of services it provides and its use of resources (ratings are: WEAK, FAIR, GOOD, EXCELLENT)
- Most PCTs in the country were rated fair for use of resources – none were rated excellent for use of resources and only 2% were rated excellent for quality of services
- In broad terms a FAIR rating means we are performing adequately but we have areas for improvement
- This is the first Healthcare Commission annual health check. The annual health check is a tougher standard than the star ratings system it replaces. It is designed to give a richer picture of how NHS services are delivered and how they are experienced by patients

The Healthcare Commission will be producing summary reports for each PCT aimed at members of Overview and Scrutiny Committees. The initial reports were withdrawn due to errors and they are unable to give a date for re-issuing the reports.

Underlying judgements

Southwark was scored *fair* for its use of resources, in common with 51% of PCTs. Only 8% of PCTs achieved the higher rating of *good*, and none achieved the rating of *excellent* – and 41% were rated as weak. Underlying the judgement on use of resources are five separate assessments on financial standing - internal control and value for money (on which Southwark was rated as performing well) and financial reporting and financial management (on which Southwark was rated as adequate).

For quality of services, Southwark also scored *fair*, in common with 59% of PCTs. Only 31% were rated good and 2% *excellent* - 8% were rated *weak*. We were rated at *almost met* on existing national targets, achieving 16 of 19 indicators. Only 22% of PCTs achieved the higher rating of fully met. Underlying this

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judgement are gradings on existing national targets, new national targets, core standards and service improvement reviews:

For existing national target areas we achieved a rating of *almost met*, in common with 49% of PCTs. Only 21% achieved the *fully met rating*. In this area Southwark achieved well with good performance on A&E waits, primary care access, hospital waiting times, urgent ambulance response times, cancer treatment waiting times (for referrals to a specialist and from diagnosis to treatment), waiting times for heart surgery, delivery of mental health services for children and adults, delayed transfers of care from hospital, choice and booking and diabetic retinopathy screening. The three areas for improvement on national targets were smoking cessation, cancer waiting times from referral to treatment and non-urgent ambulance response times delivered by the London Ambulance Service.

We were seen to be *fair* on new national targets, achieving 21 from 28 indicators. 31% of PCTs also achieved this judgement, with 28% rated *good* and 19% excellent - 22% were rated as *weak*. Southwark was judged to have achieved indicators on MRSA, drug misuse treatment, infant mortality, teenage conceptions, cancer mortality and preparations for the 18-week hospital waiting time target. There are five key areas of improvement for Southwark in this domain to improve the rating: delivery of community equipment within timescales, recruiting more community matrons, improving the recording of obesity and smoking status of GP patients and developing our GP registers for patients who are at risk of heart disease.

We were compliant on 22 of the 24 core health care standards, which relate to quality of services. We were judged to not have met the core standard on records management. This is already being addressed by the records management team and through the introduction of the RiO community information system. It was deemed we did not show sufficient evidence to be seen to be compliant with the core standard on conforming to NICE technology appraisals and using available national guidance when planning care and treatment. As a result, the rating on core standards was *almost met*, a rating achieved by 38% of PCTs. 13% PCTs were partly or not met while almost 50% were judged as fully met.

This year's health check also included three service improvement reviews, focusing on priority areas:

A substance misuse service review looked at the performance of drug action teams - Southwark was rated fair.

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A review of tobacco control examined us against six criteria - we were rated good.

A review of adult mental health services resulted in a fair rating for Southwark.

All these results, more detailed ratings and information about how ratings are decided are available at www.healthcarecommission.org.uk