

Item No. 3	Classification: OPEN	Date: 23 October 2006	MEETING NAME Health & Adult Care Scrutiny Sub-Committee
Report title:		Southwark Primary Care Trust Annual Health Check rating 2006/07	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All wards [Southwark]	
From:		Scrutiny Project Manager	

1. **RECOMMENDATION**

2. That the sub-committee notes Southwark Primary Care Trust's summary briefing in respect of the Healthcare Commission's 2005/06 performance rating for the trust [see Appendix a].

3. **BACKGROUND**

4. On 12 October 2006 the Healthcare Commission made public the annual performance ratings for every NHS trust in England.
5. For 2005/06 Southwark PCT received a rating of fair for its quality of services [along with 71% of PCTs in London and the South East region] and fair for its use of resources [along with 49% of PCTs in London and the South East]. The summary ratings for other NHS trusts operating in Southwark are attached [Appendix b] together with the Healthcare Commission's summary analysis of 2005/06 results for London and the South East region [Appendix c].
6. The Healthcare Commission user guide to AHC ratings *How's your local NHS doing ?* at Appendix d gives users information about accessing the published ratings online at www.healthcarecommission.org.uk

7. **ANNUAL HEALTH CHECK**

8. The Annual Health Check is the Healthcare Commission's system for assessment of all Primary Care Trusts and NHS Trusts in England. It replaced the old star ratings system and is intended to give a fuller picture of the extent to which trusts are achieving the Healthcare Commission's 24 Core Standards [July 2004].
9. Annually, PCTs and NHS trusts are required to make a statement to the Commission about how they believe they have performed for the period 1 April – 31 March. Local authority health scrutiny committees, patient and

public involvement forums and strategic health authorities are also invited by NHS trusts in their areas to comment on trust performance. Scrutiny input must be included verbatim in NHS trust and provides an additional perspective on a trust's self-declaration of compliance with Core Standards.

10. These stakeholder comments, along with evidence around performance against existing national targets, use of resources and performance information about the extent to which the trust is making and sustaining progress are used to determine the final two-part annual performance rating for a trust [diagram at Appendix e refers].

11. **SCRUTINY INVOLVEMENT**

12. Health scrutiny committees are encouraged to start work early in the year to determine their approaches to gathering evidence to support any future comments. This approach may include:

- Confirm PCT and trusts schedules for agreeing self-declarations through their own trust board processes;
- Agreeing a timetable for submission of scrutiny comments to trusts.
- Discussing PCT and trust performance with trusts/PCT representatives during the year;
- nearer the submission date, possibly negotiating with trusts/PCT to have sight of draft self-declarations prior to these being submitted to the Commission;
- Sharing information on concerns about trust performance with local patient and public involvement forums [see <http://www.cfps.org.uk/publications/item.php?itemid=23> for guidance];
- Drafting scrutiny comments on all trusts working within the borough, discussing and agreeing these as the sub-committee's comments;

13. The Healthcare Commission has emphasized that scrutiny committees are not compelled to comment on all 24 Core Standards. Neither is scrutiny expected to have in depth expertise around any of the standards. Scrutiny comments must be able to be supported by evidence of good practice or areas for improvement gathered during the course of scrutiny work during the year, and not simply anecdotal evidence. Guidance on scrutiny comments on the process are to be found at www.healthcarecommission.org.uk

14. There are four main NHS trusts working within Southwark, i.e. King's College Hospital Trust, Guy's & St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust, South London & Maudsley Mental Health Trust and Southwark Primary Care Trust. In addition the London Ambulance Service Trust works in every borough, although this sub-committee in common with many others in London did not submit comments for the LAS self-declaration. Given the significant capacity demands that the AHC places on scrutiny, members may wish to consider:

- delegating responsibility for meeting with individual trusts to discuss performance issues to individual members of the committee;

- focusing on one Core Standard against which evidence is gathered and about which scrutiny comments are made for all trusts. For example a focus on Core Standard 17 within the *Accessible and Responsive Care* domain would involve the sub-committee examining how well KCH, GSTFT, SLAM and the PCT seeks and takes the views of patients, their carers and others into account in designing, planning, delivering and improving healthcare services. Such an approach would enable scrutiny to develop knowledge about the challenges of particular areas of provision and also to compare the performance of all its trusts in a particular area.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

The following documents are attached in support of this item:

- Appendix (a) Southwark Primary Care Trust - summary statement of 2005/06 AHC rating
- Appendix (b) 2005/06 AHC ratings for other NHS trusts operating in Southwark
- Appendix (c) Healthcare Commission summary analysis of 2005/06 results for London and the South East region
- Appendix (d) Healthcare Commission guide to AHC ratings *How's your local NHS doing ?*
- Appendix (e) How the various components of the Annual Health Check contribute to annual ratings [Healthcare Commission diagram]

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Health & Adult Care Scrutiny Sub-Committee minutes and reports	Scrutiny Team Room 3.16 Town Hall Peckham Road London	Lucas Lundgren Scrutiny Project Manager Tel: 020 75257 224