

Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee

11 April 2024

Work Programme and Quality Accounts 2023-24

Report of the Statutory Scrutiny Officer

1 Purpose

- 1.1 To note the Committee's completed work programme for 2023/24.
- 1.2 To take a forward view on the Committee's 2024/25 developing work programme, based on the issues identified by Committee members previously and any further suggestions arising from this meeting.
- 1.3 To agree the approach to the engagement with the Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust (NUH), the Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust (NHT), the East Midlands Ambulance Service (EMAS) and the Nottingham CityCare Partnership (CityCare) on the production of their Quality Accounts for 2023/24.

2 Action required

- 2.1 The Committee is asked:
 - 1) to note the work carried out by the Committee during the 2023/24 municipal year;
 - 2) to consider any priority topics or issues for inclusion on the developing work programme for the upcoming 2024/25 municipal year; and
 - 3) to agree the Committee's approach to its engagement with the 2023/24 Quality Accounts process.

3 Background information

- 3.1 The Committee has been established to:
 - hold local decision-makers (including the Council's Executive for matters relating to Adult Social Care and Public Health, and the commissioners and providers of local health services) to account for their decisions, actions, performance and management of risk;
 - review the existing policies and strategies of the Council and other local decision-makers where they impact on Adult Social Care and/or the health of Nottingham citizens;
 - contribute to the development of new policies and strategies of the Council and other local decision-makers where they impact on Adult Social Care and/or the health of Nottingham citizens;

- explore any matters relating to Adult Social Care and/or health affecting Nottingham and/or its citizens;
- make reports and recommendations to the relevant local agencies with respect to the delivery of their functions (including the Council and its Executive, and the commissioners and providers of local health services);
- exercise the Council's statutory role in scrutinising health services for Nottingham in accordance with the NHS Act 2006 (as amended) and associated regulations and guidance;
- be part of the accountability of the whole health system and engage with commissioners and providers of health services and other relevant partners (such as the Care Quality Commission and Healthwatch); and
- review decisions made, but not yet implemented, by the Council's Executive, in accordance with the Call-In Procedure.

3.2 As well as the broad powers held by all of the Council's Overview and Scrutiny bodies, the Committee also holds the following additional powers and rights as part of its remit for health:

- to review any matter relating to the planning, provision and operation of health services in the area;
- to require members of the Council's Executive and representatives of commissioners and providers of NHS and Public Health-funded services to provide information to the Committee, attend its meetings and answer questions posed;
- to invite other persons to attend meetings of the Committee to provide information and/or answer questions;
- to make recommendations and provide reports to relevant decision-makers, including the Council's Executive and commissioners of NHS and Public Health-funded services, on matters within their remits (the Council's Executive and commissioners of NHS and Public Health-funded services have a duty to respond in writing to such recommendations); and
- to be consulted by commissioners of NHS and Public Health-funded services when there are proposals for substantial developments or variations to services, and to make comment on those proposals.

Work Programming

3.3 The Committee sets and manages its own work programme for its Scrutiny activity. Business on the work programme must have a clear link to the Committee's roles and responsibilities, and it should be ensured that each item has set objectives and desired outcomes to achieve added value. Once business has been identified, the scheduling of items should be timely, sufficiently flexible so that issues that arise as the year progresses can be considered appropriately, and reflect the resources available to support the Committee's work. It is recommended that there are a maximum of two substantive items scheduled for each Committee meeting, so that enough time can be given to consider them thoroughly.

3.4 The completed work programme for the 2023/24 municipal year is included and the Committee is asked to consider any priority topics or issues for inclusion on

the developing work programme for the upcoming 2024/25 municipal year. Potential issues raised by Committee members are regularly scoped for scheduling in consultation with the Chair, the relevant senior officers and partners, and the Portfolio Holders with the appropriate remit.

Quality Accounts 2023/24

- 3.5 Quality Accounts are an annual report by NHS healthcare providers on the quality of the services that they have provided over the last year. The Quality Accounts are published, so they represent an important way for local NHS services to show publicly the quality of their provision and demonstrate the improvements being carried out to the services that they deliver to local communities and stakeholders. The quality of the services is assessed by measuring patient safety, the effectiveness of treatments patients receive and the feedback from patients on their experiences of care.
- 3.6 Healthcare providers have a legal duty to send their Quality Accounts to the relevant Scrutiny Committee of the Local Authority area in which the provider has its registered office, inviting comments on the report prior to publication. This gives the Committee an opportunity to review the draft report and provide a formal statement, which will be published as part of the Quality Accounts. In Nottingham, the Committee receives Quality Accounts from NUH, NHT, EMAS and CityCare.
- 3.7 The Department of Health and Social Care requires providers to submit their final Quality Accounts to the Secretary of State by the end of June each year, so providers often aim to produce draft Quality Accounts during April to receive the relevant statements back by the end of May. Generally, it is impractical for the Committee to consider draft Quality Accounts at its formal meetings either in April or May due to its other business demands, the fact that this represents the transition period from the old municipal year to the new, and the potential for public elections to be taking place during early May.
- 3.8 As a result, draft Quality Accounts are often considered by working groups of Committee members, which are tasked with drawing up the appropriate statements – that are then reported back to the next appropriate meeting of the full Committee. Given that the new 2024/25 municipal year will begin on Monday 13 May with the Council's Annual General Meeting, and elections for the Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Commissioner and the Mayor for the East Midlands Combined County Authority are taking place on Thursday 2 May, the viable window for considering the draft Quality Accounts is likely to be during the week of 22 April.

4 List of attached information

- 4.1 Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2023/24

5 Background papers, other than published works or those disclosing exempt or confidential information

5.1 None

6 Published documents referred to in compiling this report

6.1 [Nottingham City Council - Constitution](#) (Article 9 and Article 11)

6.2 [NHS England - About Quality Accounts](#)

7 Wards affected

7.1 All

8 Contact information

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