

Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee

20 March 2025

Work Programme and NHS Provider Quality Accounts 2024-25

Report of the Statutory Scrutiny Officer

1 Purpose

- 1.1 To review the Committee's current work programme for the 2024/25 municipal year, based on the issues identified by Committee members previously and any further suggestions arising from this meeting. Potential issues raised by Committee members are regularly scoped for scheduling in consultation with the Chair, the relevant senior officers and partners, and the Executive Members with the appropriate remit.
- 1.2 To consider the Committee's approach to its engagement with the Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust (NUH), the Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust (NHT), the East Midlands Ambulance Service NHS Trust (EMAS) and the Nottingham CityCare Partnership (CityCare) on the completion of their Quality Accounts for 2024/25.

2 Action required

- 2.1 The Committee is asked:
 - 1) to note its current work programme for the 2024/25 municipal year and make any needed amendments;
 - 2) to consider any further priority topics or issues for inclusion on the work programme; and
 - 3) to agree the approach to the engagement with the NHS Provider Quality Accounts process for 2023/24.

3 Background information

- 3.1 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.

- 3.2 The Committee's formal Terms of Reference are set out under Article 9 of the Council's Constitution, with it being 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 NHS 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 NHS 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 NHS 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.

- 3.3 In addition to the powers held by all of the Council's Overview and Scrutiny bodies, the Committee also holds further powers and rights as part of its remit concerning health:
- to review any matter relating to the planning, provision and operation of NHS 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);
 - 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; and
 - to request that the Secretary of State uses their powers to 'call in' proposals for health service reconfiguration if there are significant concerns about them that cannot be resolved locally, and to be consulted formally

(alongside the local Healthwatch group) by the Secretary of State on how the powers of 'call in' might be implemented in relation to a given proposal if the Secretary of State is minded to use those powers.

4 Our Council Plan 2025-29 and the Council Improvement Plan

- 4.1 The vision set out in Our Council Plan (OCP) is that Nottingham deserves a Council that delivers good local services for a city where people want to live, work and study. Areas of focus are to revitalise the economy, celebrate Nottingham's cultural heritage and improve infrastructure and connectivity, with priorities to develop joined-up partnership working to pool efforts and expertise, and engage more deeply with residents to deliver common goals. The OCP has three Core Missions covering eleven Priorities for their successful delivery.
- 4.2 In addition, the Council Improvement Plan (CIP) establishes how the Council will respond to the significant governance and financial challenges that have led to the statutory intervention by Government Commissioners. The CIP represents the overarching framework that holds the Council's improvement activity together and is intended to address the challenges the Council faces while working towards achieving longer-term change to become an organisation that has a clear purpose and direction, is financially sustainable and is well run. Delivering the CIP is intended to provide assurance to citizens, councillors, officers, partners and the Commissioners that the Council is improving the way it operates to deliver, enable and influence better outcomes for Nottingham in the most effective, efficient and economical way. The CIP sets out three overall aims, with eleven Priority Programmes of Action.
- 4.3 As a result, when planning its work programme, the Committee should consider how an item relates to achieving both the Priority Programmes of Action within the CIP and the wider Priorities of the OCP. In scrutinising topics at a meeting, the Committee should seek to investigate what Priority Programmes of Action the issue affects and how improvement is being delivered against these, as well as the progress made to date against the associated performance metrics and that there is a full understanding and effective management of risk.

5 NHS Provider Quality Accounts 2024/25

- 5.1 The Quality Accounts are an annual report by local NHS healthcare providers on the quality of the services that they have delivered over the last year. The Quality Accounts are published, so they represent an important opportunity for NHS services to be able to demonstrate the quality of their provision and show the improvements being carried out to the services that they deliver to local communities. The quality of the services is assessed by measuring patient safety, the effectiveness of the treatment that patients receives and the feedback from patients on their experiences of care.
- 5.2 Healthcare providers have a legal duty to submit their Quality Accounts to the local Health Scrutiny Committee for their area, and request comments on the document prior to its publication. This gives the Committee an opportunity to review the draft information and provide a formal statement, which will be

published as part of the final Quality Accounts. In Nottingham, the Committee generally receives draft Quality Accounts from NUH, NHT, EMAS and CityCare.

- 5.3 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 they 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 one municipal year to another, and the potential for formal elections to be taking place during early May. As a result, draft Quality Accounts are normally considered between meetings by working groups of Committee members, who then agree the statements to be returned to the providers. These statements are then submitted to the next appropriate meeting of the full Committee, to be noted.

6 List of attached information

- 6.1 Work Programme 2024/25

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

- 7.1 None

8 Published documents referred to in compiling this report

- 8.1 [The Council's Constitution](#) (Article 9 and Article 11)
- 8.2 [Our Council Plan 2025-29](#)
- 8.3 [The Council Improvement Plan](#)
- 8.4 [NHS England - About Quality Accounts](#)
- 8.5 Report to, and Minutes of, the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee meeting held on [13 June 2024](#) (Quality Accounts 2023-24)

9 Wards affected

- 9.1 All

10 Contact information

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