

By: Overview, Scrutiny and Localism Manager  
To: Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Friday 9 May 2008  
Subject: **Working Group – Healthcare Commission Core Standards**

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## **Introduction**

1. (1) At the Committee's last meeting, consideration was given to three of the declarations by Trusts against the Healthcare Commission Core Standards for the period 1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008.

(2) The draft minutes of the last meeting, to be approved by the Committee today, were sent to each of the Trusts concerned, for inclusion in their declarations – which had to be with the Healthcare Commission by Midday on Wednesday 30 April 2008.

## **Remaining Trusts**

2. (1) No firm decision was taken at the meeting on 28 March 2008 for dealing with the remaining Trusts. I therefore sought the views of the Chairman.

(2) The Chairman suggested that a small group should be convened to consider the remaining Trusts' declarations. An informal Working Group, comprising Dr Robinson (substituting for Lord Bruce-Lockhart), Mr Marsh, Mr Fittock and Mr Daley, met on Friday 25 April 2008.

(3) The Working Group concluded that it did not have any substantive evidence that would enable it to submit, on behalf of the Committee, useful third-party commentaries that could add value to the Healthcare Commission's Annual Health Check process. However, the Working Group did feel that the exercise had been extremely useful in providing the Committee with a baseline, against which evidence can be gathered on an ongoing basis by the Committee throughout the forthcoming year, enabling third-party commentaries to be made by the Committee in April 2009.

(4) Attached as an Appendix is a table which sets out the information gleaned by the Working Group. I have also extracted similar information from the minutes of the meeting which looked at three of the Trusts' declarations on 28 March 2008; the table containing this is attached too. These documents will form the basis of a database against which the questions will be asked by the Committee on the Core Standards as they engage with Trusts throughout the year.

## **Working Group**

3. (1) The Working Group covered much in a short space of time (six Trusts were seen in two-and-a-half hours). If work is to be conducted by small groups of Members, those Members could have the opportunity to

become very knowledgeable on specific areas. However, it is important that information from small groups is widely disseminated among other Members of the Committee/Council.

(2) The transparency of the work of the Committee is fundamental and so it needs to take place in public.

(3) Significant working in this way will require additional resources if it is to be sustainable.

#### **Recommendations**

4. The Committee is asked to:

(a) Retrospectively agree to the setting up of the Working Group that considered the self-declarations of the six remaining Trusts on 25 April 2008; and

(b) note the information set out in the Appendix.