

## Governors Council

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<b>Report of:</b>	Director of Finance & Performance
<b>Title:</b>	Healthcare Commission Annual Health Check – Briefing for Governors
<b>Date:</b>	21 <sup>st</sup> September 2007
<b>Action:</b>	For attention

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### Summary

This paper sets out the position regarding the results to be published on 18<sup>th</sup> October 2007.

### Recommendation

The Governors Council is asked to note this update.

## Healthcare Commission Annual Health Check – Briefing for Governors

### 1. Introduction

1.1 On Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2007, the Healthcare Commission will publish its annual health check. The purpose of this paper is to brief the Governors Council on what the health check is and what Governors can expect to receive in advance of publication.

### 2. Background

#### 2.1 What is the Healthcare Commission?

The Healthcare Commission is the health watchdog for England. They check that healthcare services meet the required standards in safety, cleanliness, waiting times and many other areas.

#### 2.2 What is the Annual Health Check?

The annual health check is a comprehensive assessment of the NHS in England. The HCC publish the results for all Trusts on 18 October 2007, reflecting performance in 2006/07. It's more wide-ranging and tougher than the old system of star ratings, which only looked at how the NHS was performing in relation to targets set by the Government. The annual health check goes further and scores Trusts on many aspects of their performance, including the quality of the services they provide to patients and the public and how well they manage their finances and other resources such as their property and staff. These scores are based on a range of information gathered throughout the year, and analysed comparatively.

### 3. What's the Position at the James Paget University Hospitals?

3.1 Over the last few months, our Information Services team have completed a full verification of all the data held about us by the Healthcare Commission. We are confident that the data is correct.

3.2 Whilst we have a good idea of how we will perform against the absolute targets like cancer waiting times, and 4 hour waits in accident and emergency, we are less clear about how we will perform in other areas where data is presented by the HCC comparing our performance against other Trusts in England. For this reason, we cannot make any predictions at this stage about how we will perform.

3.3 The Trust's news release on the HCC results last October is attached at Appendix 1, for information. We were rated 'good' for resource management and 'fair' for quality of services.

#### **4. Process for Managing the Publication of the Annual Health Check**

4.1 On Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> October, Trusts and SHAs receive the data under embargo in advance of publication. This gives us time to prepare a news release and to understand the reasons for our scores.

4.2 On Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> October, details are shared with the media by the HCC under embargo. We usually share our prepared news release at this time with staff, the Board of Directors and Governors, and of course with the local media under embargo.

4.3 On Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> October, the results are made public.

Rebecca Driver  
Head of Communications and Foundation Secretary  
September 07

210907 Healthcare Commission Annual Health Check / Govs Council

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> October 2006

***Embargoed until 00.01 on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2006***

**Success Continues at the James Paget University Hospital**

The James Paget University Hospital today welcomed the results of the Healthcare Commission's (HCC) annual health check. The annual health check is the most comprehensive assessment yet of how the NHS in England is doing. It measures how well healthcare organisations are performing by answering questions that matter to patients and the public.

David Hill, Chief Executive at the James Paget University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust said: 'We are delighted that the Healthcare Commission has recognised our excellent management of the hospital's resources and awarded a 'good' for our performance in this area. This puts us in the top 15% of Trusts in England. Against the backdrop of financial difficulties nationwide in the NHS, confirmation of our continued strong performance is great news for the people of Great Yarmouth and Waveney.'

Commenting on a rating of 'fair' for quality of services, David Hill said: 'We are doing well on our key services, and we know that the difference between a fair and a good rating for our Trust is absolutely marginal, just two points. A slight shift in one or two scores would have made the difference for us, and we are confident that we'll achieve a rating in the good category next year.'

David Hill continued: 'We are very pleased that the HCC has recognised the high quality of our services and that we have successfully achieved all the existing NHS targets. What matters to our patients is knowing that we are meeting all our cancer targets and our waiting lists are falling, so patients can be really confident they will be seen and treated rapidly. This is all very good news and a credit to the hard work of all our staff.'

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