

News Release

Thursday 15th October 2009

Good news for Swindon healthcare

NHS Swindon is celebrating after maintaining a good performance in the annual health check results released today by the Care Quality Commission (CQC).

The results show that NHS Swindon(Primary Care Trust) is delivering better health through buying (commissioning) the right services, improving patient experience and using money wisely for the population of Swindon.

Now in its fourth year the annual health check, is the most comprehensive and rigorous assessment of the performance of all NHS organisations.

This year, the assessment gives a detailed picture of how the NHS is making progress on issues that matter most to patients, such as infection control, waiting times and access to services. Overall trusts are assessed and given a score - on a four point scale of excellent, good, fair or weak - in two areas; quality of services and use of resources. This is the first year that PCTs have also been given individual indicators on how well they are commissioning and providing services to meet core standards.

The results for 2008/09 for NHS Swindon were an overall score of 'good' for its quality of services and 'good' for use of resources.

Michelle Howard, Chair of NHS Swindon, said: "This year the annual performance ratings have seen an increase in the number of tough new targets on which PCTs are assessed. By achieving

the same standard as last year, it shows the organisation has achieved a consistent level of performance for quality of services and use of resources. I am extremely pleased to see that the hard work and dedication of our staff and partners continues to improve services for Swindon residents.”

Chief Executive, Caroline Fowles, added: “We are delighted that NHS Swindon has continued to achieve a good performance in both areas of the annual health check, especially in what has been a challenging year for everyone. This demonstrates our commitment to getting the best out of the resources we receive and providing good services for local residents.

The results on quality of service for commissioning are split into three parts; core standards, national priorities and existing commitments. Provider services assessment is just focused on core standards.

Core standards set out how well trusts are doing in ‘getting the basics’ right. In both commissioning and provider services the PCT results show that we have forged good relationships with other healthcare organisations and Swindon Borough Council to ensure patients individual needs are properly managed and met. The scores also show the high standards the organisation has set on patient safety, infection control and protecting children. We have been judged as being compliant in 42 out of 44 core standards in both commissioning and providing services.

NHS Swindon was judged to have almost met the existing targets with a good performance in access and waiting times for hospital services including cancer services. Whilst the Great Western Ambulance Trust performance in Swindon exceeded the national target, this area is assessed on overall ambulance trust wide performance and this meant the three indicators which were not fully met effected our overall score.

National targets such as patient access to GP services, sexual health clinics (GUM (Genito-Urinary Medicine) and childhood obesity again showed good performance and that the PCT has exceeded its planned performance. Although disappointingly NHS Swindon did not fully meet teenage pregnancy and access to dental services this year teenage pregnancy rates are already at an all time low and we have put extra funding into dentistry to increase capacity and the number of dentists in the town.

The results for 'use of resources' are determined by the Audit Commission. Maintaining a score of good reflects NHS Swindon expertise and continual strong management of its financial affairs.

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Press enquiries:

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Note to editors:

For full details of the Care Quality Commission ratings, see www.cqc.org.uk

NHS Swindon's results for commissioning services, overall score 'Good'

National priorities	Meeting core standards	Existing commitments
<p>GOOD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 17 indicators met 6 indicators not met 	<p>Almost met</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compliant with 42 standards Not compliant with 2 standards 	<p>Almost met</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11 indicators met 3 indicators not met

NATIONAL PRIORITIES

Access to primary care	Achieved
Reduction in cancer mortality rate in people aged under 75	Achieved
Breast cancer screening for women aged 53 to 70 years	Achieved
Prevalence of breastfeeding at 6-8 weeks from birth	Achieved
Number of drug users recorded in effective treatment	Achieved
Incidence of Clostridium difficile infection	Achieved
All age all cause mortality	Achieved
Reduction in CVD mortality rate in people aged under 75	Achieved
Childhood obesity rate (primary school age children)	Achieved
18 week referral to treatment times	Achieved
All cancers: one month diagnosis, from the decision to treat to treatment itself	Achieved
All cancers: two week wait	Achieved
All cancers: two month urgent referral to treatment	Achieved
Four week smoking quitters	Achieved
Commissioning a comprehensive child and adolescent mental health service	Achieved
Experience of patients	Satisfactory
NHS staff satisfaction	Satisfactory

Proportion of individuals who complete immunization by recommended aged	Under achieved
Stroke care	Under achieved
Pregnant women: 12 week maternity appointment	Under achieved
Teenage conception rates per 1,000 females ages 15-17	Failed
Chlamydia screening	Failed
Access to dental services	Failed

EXISTING TARGETS

Commissioning of crisis resolution/ home treatment services	Achieved
Patients waiting longer than three months (13 weeks) for revascularisation	Achieved
Time to reperfusion for patients who have had a heart attack	Achieved
Delayed transfers of care	Achieved
Diabetic retinopathy screening	Achieved
Outpatients waiting no longer than the 13 week standard	Achieved
Inpatients waiting no longer than the 26 week standard	Achieved
Access to GUM clinics	Achieved
Data quality on ethnic group	Achieved
Commissioning of early intervention in psychosis services	Achieved
Total time in A&E: four hours or less.	Achieved
Category A calls meeting 8 minute standard.	Failed
Category A calls meeting 19 minutes standard	Under-achieved
Category B calls meeting national 19 minutes standards	Under-achieved