

Draft Statement from Torbay Council's Health Scrutiny Board on Torbay and Southern Devon Health and Care NHS Trust's Quality Account 2011/2012

Torbay and Southern Devon Health and Care NHS Trust's Quality Account for 2011/2012 has been considered by Torbay Council's Health Scrutiny Board. The Board has had the benefit of seeing early drafts of the Quality Account. It believes that the Trust has clearly stated what its priorities are for the coming year and has provided an easy to understand summary of how it has met its priorities for 2011/2012.

The Board is reassured that the Trust's priorities will continue to meet its ambition of local people receiving the right care, in the right place at the right time. The Board is particularly pleased to see the inclusion of a priority to enable the early recognition of carers at risk of crisis and about improving the participation of children and young people who use Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services. It has been a long standing position of the Board that carers play a vital, but often unsung, role within the health and social care community. Equally the involvement of children and young people in the development of the services they use ensures that services are as effective as they can be.

Over the course of the coming year, the Board would like to receive further information about how the Trust is developing and implementing its proposed quality and safety monitoring tool for independent health care providers from whom it commissions services as this is likely to form part of the Board's Work Programme for 2012/13.

Over the past year, the Board has benefited from regular formal and informal updates from the Trust on a range of issues such as the re-provision of services at Ocombe House, the personalisation of health and social care and the redevelopment of Brixham Hospital. Representatives of the Trust have attended meetings of the Board and this has always been appreciated.

The Health Scrutiny Board was able to consider the Quality Accounts from all of the Trusts that it works with at the same time. This has enabled councillors to see how the priorities and work of each Trust as very much inter-dependent and, given the reducing availability of resources in the public sector, the Board will be aiming to review how well organisations are continuing to work together on the preventative agenda to reduce the pressure for acute services.

The Board commends the former Torbay NHS Care Trust for its openness in its dealings with the Board, recognises the implications of the change to Torbay and Southern Devon Health and Care NHS Trust and hopes that it can continue to build a positive relationship and work closely with the Health Scrutiny Board of Torbay Council.

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