

Draft Statement from Torbay Council's Health Scrutiny Board on South Devon Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust's Quality Account 2011/2012

South Devon Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust's Quality Accounts for 2011/2012 has been considered by Torbay Council's Health Scrutiny Board. The Board welcomes the clarity with which the Trust has explained how it has met its priorities for 2011/2012 and what its priorities are for the forthcoming year.

The Board is reassured that the Trust has embraced national initiatives such as "intentional rounding", "productive ward" and "enhanced recovery" with the aim of ensuring the best patient experience. The Board has confidence that, through committing to continuous quality improvement, the performance of the Trust will continue to improve.

The Board particularly supports the inclusion of Priority 3 (To improve the transition of care of young people with epilepsy, cystic fibrosis and neuromuscular disorders) and Priority 4 (To improve the quality of end of life care provision). The transition of young people between services for children and services for adults has been a long-standing issue of concern for the Board and it is pleasing to see that further work will be carried out in this specific area. Likewise, given the ageing population in Torbay, ensuring that services and agencies work effectively together to ensure patients receive timely and improved care at the end of their life is to be welcomed.

The Board would request that the actions identified to address the following local clinical audits be undertaken as a matter of urgency:

- Safeguarding quality in children's notes
- Identification of "at risk" children in A&E
- Safeguarding children that did not attend outpatients appointments

The Health Scrutiny Board considered the establishment of regional networks of trauma care at its meeting in September 2011 when councillors were able to hear from representatives of the Trust as well of those from NHS Devon and South Western Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust. The Board were also invited to attend the Trust's Quality Accounts Engagement Meeting which provided an opportunity to discuss the development of the Trust's priorities for the coming year.

The Board commends South Devon Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust for its openness and transparency of its operations and hopes that the Trust will continue to work closely with the Board and Torbay Council as a whole.

May 2012