

**HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**THURSDAY, 5 OCTOBER 2017 AT 10.00AM**

Agenda Item No.

**5a**

**PROPOSED ANNUAL SCRUTINY OF HEALTH PROVIDERS FINANCES  
2018/19**

*Report of the Head of Scrutiny*

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**1. Purpose of report**

- 1.1 To provide Members with the finance questions to which provider trusts will respond and the proposed format for the Committee's scrutiny of health trusts finance proposals 2018/19.

**2. Summary**

- 2.1 In previous years the Committee has scrutinised patient experience and NHS finances jointly in March. Feedback has highlighted the difficulty of addressing both themes effectively at one meeting. In response, it is proposed that consideration of finances and the Quality Account scrutiny is held at separate meetings of the Committee. If Members agree each trust's finances would be addressed at the December meeting and Quality Accounts at the March meetings (see item 5b).
- 2.2 On the 12 December 2017 HSC it is envisaged that Members will meet in the Council Chamber over one day. The Committee will scrutinise three providers in the morning followed by a further three providers during the afternoon. The organisations to be scrutinised are
- East & North Herts Hospital Trust (ENHT)
  - West Herts Hospital Trust (WHHT)
  - Princess Alexandra Hospital (PAH)
  - East of England Ambulance Trust (EEAST)
  - Herts Partnership Foundation Trust (HPFT)
  - Herts Community Trust (HCT)
- 2.3 It is proposed that for each organisation a small group of six Members under the direction of an identified lead will question the health body. Time will be allocated to each provider. If the Members have covered the areas they wished to raise with the trust other members of HSC will be invited to ask further questions.

- 2.4 Each trust will provide a written response to questions attached as Appendix 1 in advance of the meeting. The questions have been developed with assistance from a trust finance director, Healthwatch Hertfordshire and NHS England.
- 2.5 A briefing for Members of the Committee will be held in advance of the meeting.
- 2.6 The lead member will be expected to liaise with the other members of the group to agree key lines of inquiry etc.
- 2.7 The outcomes of the finance scrutiny will inform future scrutiny and the Quality Accounts scrutiny to be held March 2018.
- 2.8 In advance of the Committee member groups will meet to agree with the lead member the key lines of enquiry, those questions that do not require further consideration and any particular areas of focus. The Committee meeting will start in the Council Chamber. Members will receive an introduction; a summary by the Head of Scrutiny of the format for the Committee's scrutiny; and an oral report from the NHS England representative outlining the context against which trust budgets are prepared.
- 2.9 The Committee's recommendations will be monitored by the Impact of Scrutiny Sub Committee. The recommendations and observations will be summarised to inform the Quality Accounts scrutiny taking place in March 2018.

### **3. Recommendations**

- 3.1 That the Committee approves the proposals for its scrutiny of the providers finances 2018/19.
- 3.2 Members agree the proposed finance questions.

### **4. Financial Implications**

- 4.1 There are no financial implications associated with this report

#### Background Information

Francis Report

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/report-of-the-mid-staffordshire-nhs-foundation-trust-public-inquiry>

Five Year Forward View

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/next-steps-on-the-nhs-five-year-forward-view/>

Appendix 1- Proposed Questions is attached as a separate document