

# **CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL**

## **REPORT TO: Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee**

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<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	10 March 2010
<b>Report of:</b>	Cheshire East Borough Solicitor
<b>Subject/Title:</b>	Care Quality Commission – Performance Assessment Arrangements

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### **1.0 Report Summary**

1.1 This report concerns the arrangements made by the Care Quality Commission (CQC) for the performance assessment of providers of health and adult social care services, and the role of the Committee in the process.

### **2.0 Recommendations**

2.1 The Committee is invited to –

(a) Consider the arrangements for Members to participate in the CQC's ongoing assessment of health and adult social care providers in the area; and

(b) Determine how best to respond, in accordance with the roles and responsibilities described in the attached Guidance document

### **3.0 Reasons for Recommendations**

3.1 To enable the Committee to clarify its role in the CQC ongoing assessment process, and to develop appropriate working relationships with the CQC

### **4.0 Wards Affected**

4.1 All

### **5.0 Local Ward Members**

5.1 All

### **6.0 Policy Implications including - Climate change - Health**

6.1 None

**7.0 Financial Implications for Transition Costs (Authorised by the Borough Treasurer)**

7.1 None

**8.0 Financial Implications 2009/10 and beyond (Authorised by the Borough Treasurer)**

8.1 None

**9.0 Legal Implications (Authorised by the Borough Solicitor)**

9.1 None

**10.0 Risk Management**

10.1 None identified

**11.0 Background and Options**

11.1 The CQC is the independent regulator of health, mental health and adult social care services provided by the NHS, local government and the private and voluntary sectors. By April 2010 the majority of health and adult social care providers will be required to register with the CQC, and must show that they are meeting the essential standards of quality and safety across the care sector. The registration system involves ongoing monitoring and checking of compliance, inspection and enforcement. As part of this process, the CQC wishes to develop ways of giving more weight to the views of service users, to help to inform the judgements made on the performance of care providers.

11.2 Overview and Scrutiny Committees (OSCs) have proved an important source of evidence of people's views and experience of health services, particularly through the previous "Annual Healthcheck of Performance" which is now discontinued. This annual approach has been replaced by a more continuous system of feedback, allowing OSCs to exercise more regular influence on the outcome of assessments. Committees will be able to provide information about any of the services which the CQC regulate, including the quality and safety of the care provided. As well as consulting OSCs the Commission has a duty to pay particular regard to the views of Local Involvement Networks (LINKs).

11.3 There is also likely to be some interrelationship between the CQC activities and the Department of Health's requirements for providers to publish their "Quality Account" annually, which involves both the OSC and the LINK in commenting on the contents of the draft Quality Account prior to formal publication.

11.4 In order to facilitate these arrangements and to help OSCs to be clear about their role and responsibilities in the assessment process, the CQC has now published Guidance, a copy of which is attached to this report for consideration by the Committee. In addition, the Commission is keen for its local area managers to develop appropriate working relationships with the Scrutiny Committees and officers. Accordingly representatives of the CQC will be present at the meeting to explain and discuss the Guidance document

## **12.0 Overview of Year One and Term One Issues**

### 12.1

## **13.0 Access to Information**

The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting the report writer:

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