

FAO:
Mr Paul Devlin
Deputy Director of Nursing and Quality
East Cheshire NHS Trust

Democratic Services

Westfields
Middlewich Road
SANDBACH
Cheshire
CW11 1HZ
contact:

Nikki.bishop@cheshireeast.gov.uk

DATE: 15 August 2023

OUR REF: SC/LW/nb

Dear Mr Devlin

As Chair of the Cheshire East Council Scrutiny Committee, I am writing to submit its statement to be included in the East Cheshire NHS Trust Quality Account 2022/23. The draft Quality Account 22-23 has been shared with and reviewed by members of the Scrutiny Committee. Overall, the Committee is pleased with the content of the Quality Account and believes it provides a good picture of the performance of the Trust. I would also add the following comments:

I note that the Trust has taken several steps to reduce the number of pressure ulcers acquired in hospital and under the care of community nursing teams, such as the development of the Pressure Ulcer Improvement Plan, Pressure Ulcer Panel, and revision of the Pressure Ulcer Policy. The Quality Account refers to new documentation that has been developed to support the repositioning of patients and skin checks whilst in hospital and outlines how this has helped support staff education. It would be helpful for the Committee to understand if this is new documentation or existing documentation that has been improved during 2022-23.

I am pleased to hear that following the annual inspection of mattresses completed during 2022-23 a number of mattresses were replaced, providing adequate pressure relief for patients. The Committee would be keen to understand if mattresses are checked more regularly than the annual inspection, and if this is done as each patient vacates them.

I understand the workforce pressures that the Trust has faced, and I am pleased to learn that staffing levels within the Trust now comply with the National Quality Board safer staffing thresholds. It is reassuring to learn that the Trust forecasted a 0% vacancy level by Q1 2022-24. The Committee would like to discuss further the safer staffing thresholds and what, for East Cheshire Trust, constitutes safe staffing levels?

The proposed collaboration with Stepping Hill Hospital rheumatology service to explore direct referral to Same Day Emergency Care for IV alendronic acid following bone

health assessment would seem a very positive move. The Committee looks forward to learning more about this collaborative partnership at its September meeting.

The work undertaken during 2022-23 to improve Dementia Care and Learning Difficulties support to both patients and their families is noted. The appointment of an Activity Coordinator to the Clinical Teams on Ward 9 is a fantastic investment which will positively impact upon the experience of patients with dementia. The Committee would like to learn more about the Dementia Strategy 2022-25 and the care and support that is available for a patient with dementia who is admitted to hospital with an urgent medical/surgical problem?

I recognise the value of the Leadership, Education and Development Centre at New Alderley House. The Committee and I look forward to hearing about how this space will provide support to learners within the organisation. I understand that some mandatory and statutory training is below trajectory, what steps is the Trust taking to ensure this is rectified during 2023-24?

I am pleased to learn that the Trust is investing in local community estates in Congleton and Knutsford and that the Trust has received over £7m grant funding for heating upgrades and insulation efficiencies.

I note that cancer diagnosis and treatment targets during 2022-23 had not been met however the target '31 day wait from cancer diagnosis to treatment – 2023-23' had been achieved. The Committee and I would welcome a discussion on this at Committee in September to understand how this target has been met, whilst all other diagnosis and treatment targets have not been achieved.

Performance indicators for 2022-23 highlight that Safeguarding Adults L2 and Safeguarding Children – L3 training had not been on target. The Committee would be interested to hear what steps the Trust will take to improve this throughout 2023-24.

I hope the comments above are well received by the Trust and that these matters can be further discussed at the Scrutiny Committee scheduled for 7 September 2023 10am, Westfields - Sandbach. I understand that you will attend Committee to present the Quality Account 2022-23 report.

If you have any comments or questions about the Committee's submission or your attendance at Committee, please contact Nikki Bishop, Democratic Services Officer (Nikki.bishop@cheshireeast.gov.uk).

Yours sincerely

Liz Wardlaw

**Councillor Liz Wardlaw
Chair of Scrutiny Committee
Cheshire East Council**