

Health in Hackney Scrutiny Commission

Hackney Council
Town Hall
Mare St,
London E8 1EA

Reply to: jarlath.oconnell@hackney.gov.uk

28 June 2021

Ms. Catherine Pelley MBE
Chief Nurse and Director of Governance
Homerton University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
Trust Offices
Education Centre
Homerton Row, E9 6SR

Email to: c.pelley@nhs.net

Dear Catherine

Response to Homerton University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust's draft Quality Account for 2020/21

Thank you for inviting us to submit comments on the Draft Quality Account for your Trust for 2020/21. We are writing to provide our insights arising from the scrutiny of the Trust's services over the past year at the Commission.

The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic continues to be deeply felt by all the local health and care providers. We note that last year because of the unprecedented pressures on the NHS this process was completed in Sept and you attended our Oct meeting and responded in further detail in November. This letter therefore will pick up on issues since then and we note that this year's report is more truncated than usual.

We've been grateful to your Chief Executive for her engagement with our work especially now in her new role as Integrated Care Partnership (ICP) Lead for City and Hackney. In Sept she took part in a discussion panel on the plans for the ICS, in Nov in another panel on Covid-19 and Care Homes and in January she participated in an item on the vaccinations programme roll-out. In March she presented the new governance structure for the City and Hackney ICP.

We do appreciate the Quality Account exercise as it allows us also to step back from individual issues we raise with you over the course of the year and take an overview of the quality of your services. The Commission Members take a great interest in the performance of our key local acute trust and we're pleased to learn about some of your key achievements over the past year.

We commend the Trust for the role it played during the pandemic and in particular for the drive to vaccinate the adult population particularly staff of other local health and care providers (ambulance service, social care staff, cleaners, drivers etc). On a personal note, congratulations on your much deserved MBE.

We note that the usual reporting of your performance on many national audits has been delayed as patient care was given priority over such exercises during the pandemic. We also note that as a result of the pandemic the contractual arrangements for 2020/21 with NHS foundation trusts were modified to a block payments approach (as opposed to PBR) which will remain in place for the first half of 21/22. This also means there is also no reporting on CQINs which usually gives us an indicator of overall performance. We also note that during this exceptional year most clinical research activity (which HUHFT normally excels at) was paused to concentrate resources on the pandemic, although you still managed to engage a significant number of patients with Covid in important clinical studies.

We are pleased that despite the pandemic you delivered a comparably strong performance against the suite of core national standards (p.62) when performances of Trusts nationally have deteriorated because of Covid.

With respect to page 30 please can you outline what measures you have taken to improve the shortcomings around the completeness of ethnicity data recording, considering that patients from ethnic minority groups often have poorer outcomes and are disproportionately affected by Covid.

We look forward to taking up these issues with you over the next year on the Scrutiny Commission.

Yours sincerely



Councillor Ben Hayhurst
Chair of Health in Hackney Scrutiny Commission

cc Members of Health in Hackney Scrutiny Commission
Tracey Fletcher, Chief Executive, HUHFT
Cllr Christopher Kennedy, Cabinet Member for Health, Social Care and Leisure
Dr Sandra Husbands, Director of Public Health, City and Hackney
Jon Williams, Director, Healthwatch Hackney