

## Health in Hackney Scrutiny Commission

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21 June 2022

Ms Breeda McManus  
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Dear Breeda

### **Response to Homerton University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust's draft Quality Account for 2021/22**

Thank you for inviting us to submit comments on the Draft Quality Account for your Trust for 2021/22. We are writing to provide our insights arising from the scrutiny of the Trust's services over the past year at the Commission. We would also like to welcome you to your new post.

We've been grateful to the outgoing Chief Executive, Tracey Fletcher, for her continued support of Overview & Scrutiny both as the CE of our local acute trust and in her leadership role as Place Based Leader for City & Hackney. We look forward to continuing that close relationship with her successor, Louise Ashley, when she takes up her role in the autumn.

Over the past year at committee, we've questioned your CE and/or senior directors on the following:

- HUH Pathology Partnership with Barts Health and Lewisham & Greenwich trusts
- Treatment pathways for Long Covid
- Responding to last year's Quality Account comments
- Plans for the redevelopment of the St Leonard's site
- Roadmap to Net Zero Carbon at HUH
- Update on Covid and Elective Recovery at HUH
- How will City & Hackney's place-based system operate within NEL ICS

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're pleased that the overall CQC rating for both the Homerton University Hospital and Mary Seacole sites remain unchanged at 'Good' and commend you on being rated 'outstanding' on the 'responsive' and 'well led' metrics.

We support the 7 quality priorities you've identified for 22/23 and commend that, following a stakeholder engagement process, they will be in place for a 2-year reporting cycle to ensure that sufficient and sustainable progress can be achieved with them.

We noted that because of Covid, your performance against some national operational standards did suffer, along with the rest of the country. For example, the percentage of A&E patients admitted in less than 4 hrs fell from 93% to 86.9% and there was a rise in *clostridium difficile* cases from 10 to 16, where the target was 12. However, cancer waiting time targets have remained stable, as have the performance against targets for 6 and 18 weeks wait for IAPT. We are pleased to note that despite the immense challenges of Covid in 20/21 and the efforts to then rebuild elective care in 21/22, the Trust continued to perform strongly against a wide range of national quality assurance indicators.

In the context of previous discussions, we've had at the Commission we are also pleased to note the following:

- a) We welcome (p.25) that a targeted piece of work has taken place to improve *ethnicity coverage reporting*. We had picked up on this issue last year and are pleased to note the progress. We are pleased too that data cleansing will ensure that the Trust holds one record for every patient which can be viewed by other trusts and organisations to ensure safe and effective clinical care.
- b) We are pleased with the progress on '*Speak Up Safely*' (p.32). The appointment of two *Freedom to Speak up Guardians* in the Trust (one an executive lead and one a Non-Exec Director as per national guidance) is to be welcomed. They will have dedicated time to promote speaking up and support staff who do so
- c) On the issue of *Rota Gaps* (p.32) we also welcome the work being done by the *Guardian of Safe Working*, put in place since the implementation of the new junior doctor's contract.

Over the coming year we will wish to discuss with you the building back of elective care and how the Trust's involvement in the 'Acute Provider Collaborative' with Barts Health and BHRUT, as part of the North East London ICS, will impact on patient care in Hackney, as well as other issues.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ben Hayhurst'.

**Councillor Ben Hayhurst**  
**Chair of Health in Hackney Scrutiny Commission**

cc Members of Health in Hackney Scrutiny Commission  
Cllr Christopher Kennedy, Cabinet Member for Health, Adult Social Care, Voluntary Sector and Culture  
Dr Sandra Husbands, Director of Public Health, City and Hackney