

Statement PHNT

Plymouth City Council's Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Panel (the Panel) has prepared this statement following consideration of the Quality Accounts of the Plymouth Hospitals NHS Trust on the 21 June 2012.

The Panel found that the account provides a comprehensive coverage of the services provided by the Trust.

The panel remains concerned that the Trust has lacked permanent leadership both at the Board and Executive level. During this time of transformation in the health and social care sector, a lack of permanent leadership could provide a risk to the effective delivery of services and damage the Trust's bid for foundation status.

The panel noted a downward trend in some national targets and regulatory requirements with respect to access to care and the slight negative drop in patient experience measures. However, the panel noted the Trust's response to 'never events' and the increased compliance with the surgical safety checklist with the trust becoming an example of good practice in this area.

The city priorities and vision were again lacking from the document and the panel felt that the document had been written in isolation, without reference to other health care providers in the city, this latter concern was allayed during debate at the panel.

The document is for public consumption and whilst the panel understands there is difficulty in presenting complex medical information in a document of this nature, the panel requests in the future the document is written in plain English.