

29 January 2012

Independent Review of Mortality Rates at The Manor Hospital

Ward(s) All

Portfolios: Councillor Barbara McCracken

Executive Summary:

Walsall Health Scrutiny and Performance Panel first considered the issue of high mortality rates at The Manor Hospital, Walsall in June 2011. At that time the hospital standardised mortality rate (HSMR) had an expected mortality rate of 100, and for 2011/12 this figure was currently showing at 112.

After considering the reports of both Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust on 21 June 2012 and NHS Walsall on 24 July 2012, the Health Scrutiny and Performance Panel agreed to commission an independent review of mortality rates. This would add a further contribution to the work underway, and seek to provide assurance that the level of avoidable mortality at The Manor Hospital is no greater than should be expected by ensuring that the examination of the issues is as robust and comprehensive as possible.

Reason for scrutiny:

A report was received from the Chief Executive of Walsall Healthcare Trust at 24 January 2012 which stated that mortality rates were being measured monthly and were within NHS confidence levels.

A further report from Walsall Healthcare Trust to the Panel on 21 June 2012 reported that

- *“The average monthly number of deaths in the hospital has reduced from 101 in 2010/11 to 98 in 2011/12. The Trust’s Standardised Hospital Mortality Index (SHMI) at 109 and Standardised Hospital Mortality Rate (HSMR) at 108 are both above 100 and indicate scope for further improvement”.*

This report set out Walsall Healthcare Trusts action plan for addressing the issue of high mortality rates. It was recognised by all parties that the issue should not be considered in isolation from the level of mortality rates across the whole health and social care economy in Walsall.

As a result of receiving this report the Chair of the Health Scrutiny and Performance Panel (Councillor Marco Longhi) requested a separate report from the PCT/CCG to provide a commissioning perspective on the issues. This report set out an action plan by commissioners to address the issues and was considered by the Scrutiny Panel on 24 July 2012.

Independent Review – Terms of Reference

An independent review of mortality rates within The Manor Hospital has been commissioned, starting its work from the first week in January 2013. It will examine overall levels of mortality in Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust, and more generally across the health and social care economy of the Borough.

The contract has been awarded to Mott MacDonald. The health and social care team at Mott MacDonald works for the most part exclusively on NHS or Local Authority projects. They have recently undertaken similar studies of mortality rates at the George Elliot Hospital, and Northampton General Hospital.

The Review Team will examine the data and appropriate records from April 2011 to the present. Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust has reported considerable improvement in these figures during the first three months of 2012/13 and so the period to be examined is not restricted to the 2011/12 financial year. They will examine data including demographics, ethnicity, postcode, diagnosis, treatment, co-morbidities, and so on.

This exercise will be with the full co-operation of Walsall Healthcare Trust; NHS Walsall; Walsall CCG, and Walsall Council. The Review Team will be expected to engage directly with Board level clinicians and senior management in all the key agencies. The review will draw its own independent conclusions and report to the Health Scrutiny and Performance Panel in the spring of 2013.

Recommendations:

That the Health Scrutiny and Performance Panel notes the start of the independent review and will receive the findings at its meeting in April 2013.

Background papers:

Walsall Healthcare Trust Mortality Rates Action Plan – May 2012

Walsall Clinical Commissioning Group Project Plan for Reducing Hospital Mortality Ratios at Walsall Healthcare Trust – July 2012

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