Background

1.1 The Care Quality Commission (CQC), the national health and social care regulator, has an ongoing programme for inspecting all NHS hospital trusts. CQC's inspections of services are based around five key questions:

- Are they safe?
- Are they effective?
- Are they caring?
- Are they responsive to people’s needs?
- Are they well-led?

1.2 Inspections result in an overall rating for the Trust of inadequate, requires improvement, good or outstanding. Ratings are also given for each of the five questions, each site and each of the core services inspected.

Supporting information

2.1 BSUH was last inspected in April 2016. In June 2016 CQC issued a warning notice to the Trust setting out some immediate concerns about its services – this was reported to HOSC on 30 June. The notice advised the Trust that it had until 30 August to make necessary changes in response to CQC’s concerns.

2.2 On 17 August 2016 the full CQC inspection report was published. The Trust received an overall rating of ‘inadequate’ and site specific ratings of ‘inadequate’ for the Royal Sussex County Hospital (RSCH) in Brighton and ‘requires improvement’ for the Princess Royal Hospital (PRH) in Haywards Heath.

2.3 The full CQC report has previously been circulated to HOSC Members electronically and is available on the CQC website. Summary extracts from the report are attached at appendix 1.

2.4 As a consequence of the inspection, CQC recommended that the Trust be placed into special measures. This recommendation has been accepted by NHS Improvement. The Trust is required to produce an improvement plan to support its recovery and to enable
progress to be monitored. A report from BSUH on the Trust's response to the inspection is attached at appendix 2.

2.5 A representative of BSUH will be in attendance at HOSC to take questions. The HOSC meeting clashes with a Trust Board meeting meaning that the Chief Executive is unable to attend.

3. Conclusion and reasons for recommendations

3.1 HOSC is recommended to consider and comment on the CQC findings (appendix 1) and the Trust’s response (appendix 2).

3.2 Both West Sussex and Brighton & Hove HOSCs also have a strong interest in the Trust’s response to CQC. It is recommended that three HOSC Members are nominated to participate in a joint Task Group with the two neighbouring HOSCs to undertake ongoing scrutiny of BSUH’s response to the CQC report over the coming months. This approach aims to both reduce duplication and enable more detailed scrutiny.

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