

Report to: **East Sussex Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC)**

Date: **29 June 2017**

By: **Assistant Chief Executive**

Title: **East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust (ESHT) Quality Improvement Programme: End of Life Care**

Purpose: **To consider progress of the Trust's End of Life Care Project**

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## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

**HOSC is recommended to:**

- 1) consider and comment on the Trust's progress report (appendix 1)**
  - 2) to request a further update in March 2018.**
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### **1. Background**

1.1. The Care Quality Commission (CQC) carried out inspections of East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust (ESHT) in September 2014 and March 2015 which resulted the Trust receiving overall ratings of 'inadequate' and entering special measures.

1.2. As part of the special measures process ESHT was required to implement a Quality Improvement Programme (QIP) to demonstrate how sustainable improvements would be made in response to the inspection findings. During 2015/16 HOSC scrutinised specific aspects of the CQC's findings and the Trust QIP in more detail to gain assurance that appropriate action was being taken.

1.3. The CQC inspected both of ESHT's acute hospital sites for a third time in October 2016 and published its inspection report in January 2017. The reports recognised significant improvements since the previous inspections and the CQC rating moved from 'inadequate' to 'requires improvement'. However both CQC and the Trust recognised the need for further work in a number of areas and the Trust remains in special measures. The QIP was reviewed and updated in response to the most recent inspection.

1.4. HOSC considered the CQC report and updated Trust QIP in March 2017 and agreed that more detailed reports should be requested in two areas: end of life care, and urgent care and patient flow (the latter to be considered by HOSC in September 2017).

### **2. End of life care**

2.1. Following its inspection in October 2016 the CQC rated End of Life Care Services as 'good' for Safety and Care but 'requires improvement' in the Effective, Well Led and Responsive domains. Key concerns raised by the CQC were:

- variation in practice across the Trust
- quality of care in the last days of life
- care after death
- workforce education and learning

2.2. Following the inspection ESHT strengthened its existing end of life care programme with the aim of ensuring that: there are changes and improvements in clinical practice; governance and

operational management are well co-ordinated; and progress is monitored and reported to provide maximum contribution to the achievement of the Trust's 'high quality end of life care aims'.

2.3. The report provided by ESHT (**Appendix 1**) provides an overview of the work underway through the end of life care programme, progress to date and further work planned.

### **3. Conclusion and recommendation**

3.1 End of life care was a key area highlighted in CQC's most recent inspection as in need of further improvement. The Trust's report provides the committee with more detailed information about the action underway to improve care for patients at the end of life.

3.2 The Committee is recommended to consider and comment on the Trust's progress report and, given that improvement work is ongoing, to request a further update in March 2018.

PHILIP BAKER  
Assistant Chief Executive

Contact Officer: Claire Lee, Senior Democratic Services Adviser  
Tel No: 01273 335517, Email: [Claire.lee@eastsussex.gov.uk](mailto:Claire.lee@eastsussex.gov.uk)