



Health Scrutiny Committee  
4 July 2013

**Surrey NHS Providers' Response to Francis Report**

**Purpose of the report:** Scrutiny of Services

The main NHS providers in Surrey will provide the Committee with an overview of how their organisation has responded to the recommendations of the Francis Report.

**Introduction**

1. The Francis Report, published in February 2013, was the final report of the Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust Public Inquiry. The Inquiry was chaired by Robert Francis QC. Attached at **Annexe 1** is a summary briefing of the report.
2. The Inquiry was set up to examine the commissioning, supervisory and regulatory organisations in relation to their monitoring role at Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust between January 2005 and March 2009. The purpose of the Inquiry was to look at why serious problems at the Trust were not identified and acted on sooner and to identify important lessons to be learned for the future.

**Implications for NHS providers**

3. The final report made 290 recommendations, the majority of which relate to patient care. The concern is that, with many other inquiry reports, the recommendations will initially be welcomed but then implementation will be slow or non-existent. The report makes it clear that this should not happen. The report therefore recommends that:
  - All commissioning, service provision, regulatory and ancillary organisations in healthcare should consider the findings and recommendations of this report and decide how to apply them to their own work;
  - Each such organisation should announce at the earliest practicable time its decision on the extent to which it accepts the recommendations and what it intends to do to implement those

accepted, and thereafter, on a regular basis but not less than once a year, publish in a report information regarding its progress in relation to its planned actions

4. It is important for the Health Scrutiny Committee to be aware of the responses and plans of the NHS providers and commissioners in Surrey.
5. This will be a two-stage process. The first invited responses are from the major NHS providers: acute hospitals, mental health trust and ambulance trust. Each organisation has been requested to send through their response and any action plan in relation to the recommendations in the Francis Report. Their papers are attached as **Annexes 2-8**.
6. Later in the year, it is recommended that the Committee invite the new Clinical Commissioning Groups to send their responses and plans as commissioners.

#### **Implications for the Health Scrutiny Committee**

7. The report looked across the entire spectrum of those involved with Mid Staffordshire Hospital, including the local scrutiny bodies: Stafford Borough Overview & Scrutiny Committee and the Staffordshire County Council Health Scrutiny Committee.
8. Robert Francis was no less critical of the role that local scrutiny committees play in monitoring quality of care from the providers they have a remit for scrutinising.
9. Attached at **Annexe 9** is a summary of the involvement of the local scrutiny bodies in Staffordshire and the arising implications for Surrey's Health Scrutiny Committee going forward. The Committee should not rely solely on providers to monitor quality; it too has a role and it will need to ensure that it uses this going forward.

#### **Recommendations:**

10. The Committee is recommended to scrutinise the responses and plans related to the Francis Report of NHS providers in Surrey.
11. The Committee is recommended to put on its Work Programme a future item on commissioners' responses to the Francis Report.

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**Sources/background papers:**

Francis Report: [www.midstaffspublicinquiry.com](http://www.midstaffspublicinquiry.com)