

**NHS DORSET CLINICAL COMMISSIONING GROUP
GOVERNING BODY MEETING
NHS CONSTITUTION**

Date of the meeting	19/11/2014
Author	J Green, Head of Information Governance/Customer Care
Sponsoring Clinician	Dr P French, Locality Chair for East Bournemouth
Purpose of Report	To assure the Governing Body that the requirements of the NHS Constitution are being met.
Recommendation	The Governing Body is asked to Note the report.
Stakeholder Engagement	Summarise engagement with members, clinicians, staff, patients & public.
Previous GB / Committee/s, Dates	Quality Group

Monitoring and Assurance Summary

This report links to the following Strategic Principles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Services designed around people • Preventing ill health and reducing inequalities • Sustainable healthcare services • Care closer to home 		
	Yes [e.g. ✓]	Any action required?	
		Yes Detail in report	No
All three Domains of Quality (Safety, Quality, Patient Experience)	✓		✓
Board Assurance Framework Risk Register	✓		✓
Budgetary Impact	✓		✓
Legal/Regulatory	✓		✓
People/Staff	✓		✓
Financial/Value for Money/Sustainability	✓		✓
Information Management & Technology	✓		✓
Equality Impact Assessment	✓		✓
Freedom of Information	✓		✓
I confirm that I have considered the implications of this report on each of the matters above, as indicated	✓		

Initials :JG

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Secretary of State for Health, all NHS bodies, private and voluntary sector providers supplying NHS services, and local authorities (in relation to their public health functions) are required by law to take account of the NHS Constitution in their decisions and actions. The Government has a legal duty to renew the Constitution every 10 years.
- 1.2 The introduction of the Health and Social Care Act 2012 has strengthened the legal foundation of the NHS Constitution, and placed new duties on NHS England and Clinical Commissioning Groups to promote it.
- 1.3 As part of the government's initial response to the Francis report, into the failings at Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust, the Department of Health changed the NHS Constitution to demonstrate that the NHS's most important value is for patients to be at the heart of everything the NHS does. The Francis report emphasises the role of the NHS Constitution in helping to create a positive and caring culture within the NHS.
- 1.4 The current Constitution can be obtained from the [Department of Health](#) website

2. Report

What does the NHS Constitution mean for patients and staff?

- 2.1 As well as capturing the 'Purpose', 'Principles' and 'Values' of the NHS, the Constitution brings together a number of 'Rights', 'Pledges' and 'Responsibilities' for staff and patients alike. These "Rights" are enshrined in current law and are legally binding.

CCG Baseline Assessment

- 2.2 The most important test of whether the CCG 'has regard to' the NHS Constitution is whether the CCG upholds the Rights and Pledges contained therein. There is a range of different sources of information available to measure this, including staff surveys, details of complaints received and the management of responses, internal performance and assurance reports to the Governing Body and other CCG committees.
- 2.3 The Information Governance Team conducted a baseline assessment with each directorate in order to review evidence of compliance with the NHS Constitution within the CCG.
- 2.4 The assessment demonstrated that there is a lot of good practice in place which provides strong evidence to support compliance with the Constitution's Principles, Values, Rights and Pledges.
- 2.5 A number of actions were identified from the baseline assessment.
- 2.6 The CCG is as yet not compliant against the requirements of the NHS Constitution for waiting times however the CCG has an action plan in place to address shortfalls.

Working Group

- 2.7 To meet the identified actions the Information Governance Team are leading on a working group. Membership consists of nominated representatives from all directorates who will identify evidence and actions required.
- 2.8 The Reporting line for this group is via the Quality Group. Regular reports on progress are provided.
- 2.9 The Quality Group has requested an audit be conducted on evidence held.

Annual Report

- 2.10 The CCG Annual Report is a valuable document and contains a large amount of evidence of work being undertaken throughout the CCG which links to the NHS Constitution. A mapping exercise has been undertaken in order to document the evidence.

Briefings to staff

- 2.11 A brief to staff on the NHS Constitution was presented at the Chief Officer's staff briefing session in September.
- 2.12 The Head of IG is to attend directorate briefings to raise staff awareness.

3. Conclusion

- 3.1 The Information Governance Team continue to work towards providing assurance to the Governing Body that compliance with the NHS Constitution is met.

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