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HARROGATE COUNCIL
- 8 FEB 2007

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31st January 2007

Ref: JB/IW/JM

Dear Chairman

The Healthcare Commission's Annual Health Check

To support the Healthcare Commission's Annual Health Check process, the Yorkshire Ambulance Service NHS Trust is inviting all Health Overview and Scrutiny Committees, for whom we provide services, to comment on our declaration for 2006/07. Our Trust welcomes this opportunity to engage with our partners on the evaluation of our services, in respect of the NHS' 24 core standards. Your committee's unedited comments, together with any other views we receive will form a part of our submission to the Healthcare Commission.

You are invited to participate but there is no obligation to do so. The Healthcare Commission has identified some specific subject topics in the core standards that you may choose to focus on (see page 32 of "The Annual Health Check, Guidance on the assessment of Core Standards"). Alternatively, you may choose to comment on all of the core standards. The Healthcare Commission welcome's all comments, including information about recent local monitoring or discussions.

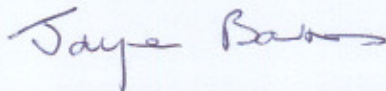
We are continually working to improve the annual process which this year includes the additional developmental standards for 2006/07. I appreciate your Committee's consideration and contribution to this process for YAS and for the inclusion of any suggestions that will improve planning, communication and involvement in future years.



I appreciate that your committee will be very busy at this time, receiving many requests for commentaries on the NHS Trusts that provides services to residents within your area. We are in a similar position ourselves, in that we are seeking to include commentaries within our declaration for all the areas of the community we serve. It will enable us to include your comments verbatim to our 2006/07 declaration which we are planning to sign off at our Public Board Meeting on Wednesday 28th March 2007. Following this approval we are required to submit our self-assessment declaration to the Healthcare Commission by Tuesday 1st May 2007.

If you would like to discuss this matter further or your committee would welcome a visit from managers of our trust to discuss or answer questions you may have, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jayne Barnes". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

**JAYNE BARNES CBE
CHIEF EXECUTIVE**