

**NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL****SCRUTINY OF HEALTH COMMITTEE****22 January 2010****Dr Foster Survey - Scarborough and North East Yorkshire NHS Trust****Purpose of Report**

1. The purpose of this report is to bring Members' attention to the results for the Scarborough and North East Yorkshire (SNEY) NHS Trust in the Dr Foster survey, "How Safe is Your Hospital?", carried out in November 2009.

**Introduction**

2. Dr Foster is an independent organisation which provides comparative information on health and social care services across the UK. In November 2009 it published a service quality rating for every English NHS Trust aimed at helping us to understand how our local hospitals perform across measures of patient safety, clinical effectiveness and patient experience. The survey used statistical techniques to combine a range of indicators to come up with an overall score between 0 and 100, with 100 being the best.
3. It is acknowledged in the survey that "scores are not so accurate that you can draw strong distinctions between hospitals with similar scores. For that reason we have grouped them into five bands, giving 1 for the poorest performers and 5 for the best".
4. The Dr Foster results for the SNEY Trust and, for comparison purposes, all of the hospital Trusts serving North Yorkshire are shown in APPENDIX 1. The Care Quality Commission's performance ratings, published in October 2009, are also shown.
5. Nationally some Trusts have questioned the survey's methodology and have commented that certain data on patient safety has been excluded in the survey and that there are inconsistencies in the way Trusts have coded patient conditions/procedures. Palliative (end of life) care is an example being cited where inconsistencies between Trusts have occurred – patients who in fact may have required palliative care, in some trusts, were coded with an acute illness resulting in the mortality rates for those illnesses being exaggerated. Dr Foster has responded by saying it has "used the most credible available data to assess patient safety".
6. Richard Sunley will be attending the meeting to comment on the SNEY Trust's performance in the survey and to summarise work that has taken place in the Trust to address issues highlighted in the survey.

**Recommendation**

7. That Members note the SNEY Trust's results in the Dr Foster survey and provide advice on the actions that the Trust is planning to take or has already taken as a result of the survey.

**HUGH WILLIAMSON  
Head of Scrutiny and Corporate Performance  
County Hall  
NORTHALLERTON**

**Written & Presented by Bryon Hunter  
Principal Scrutiny Officer – Health**

**11 November 2009**

**Background Documents: None**

## APPENDIX 1

Trust	Dr Foster Results		Care Quality Commission NHS Performance Rating 2008/09	
	Overall Patient Safety Score	Band	Quality of Services	Quality of Financial Management
Scarborough and North East Yorkshire Healthcare NHS Trust	2.06	1	Fair	Fair
Airedale NHS Trust	91.78	5	Excellent	Good
Harrogate and District NHS Foundation Trust	52.74	3	Excellent	Excellent
South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	95.89	5	Excellent	Good
York Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	86.99	4	Good	Excellent