
Public Board Meeting: 18th December 2008

NHS Operating Framework

Purpose

This paper is to draw the Board's attention to the publication on the 8 December 2008 of the NHS Operating Framework.

NHS Operating Framework 2009-10

The operating framework 2009-10: for the NHS in England sets out:

1. **The health and service priorities for 2009/10:** Strengthening the focus on subsidiarity whilst maintaining the 5 national priorities and the Vital Signs agreed for the 3 year CSR period 2008/09 – 2010/11. Patient experience is the final arbiter of success.
2. **A system designed to deliver quality:** making quality the organising principle of the NHS. The local visions set out in High Quality Care for All puts quality at the centre of all the NHS does, this focuses on the levers and incentives to further build on this, including staff engagement for the benefit of patients and the public.
3. **The financial regime:** Maintaining a framework that supports quality and innovative improvements in services within available resources. Key to this is asking the NHS to go further to ensure it makes the best use of taxpayers' money.
4. **The business processes:** Ensuring that planning is based on locally led decision making and maintaining the emphasis on genuine partnership working at a local level with local government and other partners.

Priorities

There are 5 National Priorities identified in the Framework for 2009/10 which build from the position established in the last Operating Framework. They are:

- Improving cleanliness and reducing HCAIs
- Improving access through achievement of the 18-week referral to treatment pledge
- Improving health and reducing health inequalities.
- Improving the patient experience, staff satisfaction and engagement,
- Preparing to respond to a state of emergency, such as an outbreak of pandemic influenza.