

Care Quality Commission Inspection - Urgent and Emergency Care Services at Huddersfield Royal Infirmary

Meeting:	Calderdale and Kirklees Joint Health Scrutiny Committee
Date:	6 August 2026
Cabinet Member (if applicable)	Not applicable
Key Decision Eligible for Call In	Not applicable
Purpose of Report To provide Members with an overview of the recent Care Quality Commission (CQC) inspection of Urgent and Emergency Care Services at Huddersfield Royal Infirmary (HRI), which resulted in the service being downgraded from Good to Requires Improvement. The report introduces evidence from Calderdale and Huddersfield NHS Foundation Trust (CHFT) and seeks assurance regarding the actions being taken to address the concerns identified by the CQC.	
Recommendations • Seek assurance that any relevant learning arising from the CQC inspection is being reflected in the ongoing design and planning of the proposed Emergency Department at Calderdale Royal Hospital. • Receive and consider the report from Calderdale and Huddersfield NHS Foundation Trust setting out the inspection findings, improvement plan and progress made to date. • Seek assurance that appropriate actions are being taken to address the issues identified by the Care Quality Commission. • Note that the development of the new Accident and Emergency Department at Huddersfield Royal Infirmary and the wider service reconfiguration programme have previously been scrutinised by the Joint Health Scrutiny Committee and are not the subject of this report. • Determine whether any additional information relating to progress against the improvement plan should be requested through a written briefing from the Trust. Reasons for Recommendations The Committee has previously considered the development of the new Accident and Emergency Department at Huddersfield Royal Infirmary and broader service reconfiguration proposals through a number of scrutiny reviews and update reports.	

The purpose of the report is therefore not to revisit those matters, but to enable Members to understand the findings of the Care Quality Commission inspection and the actions being taken by the Trust in response. The report provides an opportunity for Members to seek assurance regarding service quality, patient safety and improvement activity. Should Members require further information on progress, subject to Member agreement, this could be provided by the Trust through a written briefing note.	
Resource Implications: There are no direct resource implications arising from this report.	
Date signed off by <u>Executive Director</u> & name	Not applicable
Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Finance?	Not applicable
Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Legal Governance and Commissioning (Monitoring Officer)?	Not applicable

Electoral wards affected: all

Ward councillors consulted: none

Public or private: Public

Has GDPR been considered? Yes, the report does not contain any personal data and no GDPR implications have been identified.

1. Executive Summary

1.1 In June 2024, the Joint Health Scrutiny Committee received an update on the opening of the new Accident and Emergency Department at Huddersfield Royal Infirmary. Members were advised that the facility had improved patient experience, enhanced staff morale and provided improved infection prevention and control measures. The Committee commented positively on the design and operation of the department and requested a further update after six months.

1.2 The Committee subsequently received a wider reconfiguration update from Calderdale and Huddersfield NHS Foundation Trust on 15 October 2024. Members were advised that the redevelopment programme remained on track and discussed the role of the new Accident and Emergency Department within the wider transformation of hospital services across Calderdale and Huddersfield.

1.3 Following an inspection undertaken in January and February 2026, the Care Quality Commission downgraded the rating for Urgent and Emergency Services at Huddersfield Royal Infirmary from Good to Requires Improvement. The CQC

identified concerns relating to patient safety, overcrowding, corridor care, infection prevention and control, medicines management, mandatory training compliance and aspects of patient flow through the department. CQC report link: <https://www.cqc.org.uk/location/RWY01/reports/LAP-02157/urgent-and-emergency-services>

- 1.4 The Committee has therefore invited representatives from Calderdale and Huddersfield NHS Foundation Trust to attend and present a report detailing the findings, the Trust's response and progress against improvement actions. This report can be found at Appendix A.

2. Information required to take a decision

- 2.1 The Calderdale and Kirklees Joint Health Scrutiny Committee has received regular updates from Calderdale and Huddersfield NHS Foundation Trust regarding the redevelopment and reconfiguration of hospital services.

In June 2024, Members received a presentation on the opening of the new Accident and Emergency Department at Huddersfield Royal Infirmary. The Committee was advised that the new facility was delivering benefits for patients and staff, including improved patient experience, increased staff morale and enhanced infection prevention and control measures. Members were also advised that learning from the development would help inform future phases of the wider reconfiguration programme. A six-month update was requested by the Committee.

In October 2024, the Committee received a further update regarding the reconfiguration programme, including progress on the redevelopment of facilities at Calderdale Royal Hospital. During the discussion, Members sought assurance regarding transformation work, communications, future design principles and the delivery of the wider programme. The Committee agreed that regular updates should continue to be brought forward.

Members should note that the Committee has previously considered the development of the new Accident and Emergency Department at Huddersfield Royal Infirmary and the wider hospital reconfiguration programme. The purpose of this report is therefore to consider the findings of the Care Quality Commission inspection and the actions being taken by the Trust in response. Whilst the wider reconfiguration programme is not the subject of this report, Members may wish to seek assurance that any relevant learning arising from the inspection findings is being considered as part of the design and development of the proposed new Emergency Department at Calderdale Royal Hospital, which has been informed by the operational model and learning from Huddersfield Royal Infirmary.

Members may wish to consider the Trust's arrangements for engaging with scrutiny committees in relation to significant regulatory inspections and inspection outcomes, particularly where services have previously been considered by the Committee and form part of the wider reconfiguration programme.

2.1 CQC Inspection

The Care Quality Commission carried out an unannounced inspection of Urgent and Emergency Care Services at Huddersfield Royal Infirmary in January and February 2026 in response to concerns regarding patient care and treatment. Following the inspection:

- Overall rating: Requires Improvement
- Safe: Requires Improvement
- Effective: Requires Improvement
- Caring: Good
- Responsive: Good
- Well-led: Good.

The CQC identified concerns including:

- overcrowding and corridor care;
- patient privacy and dignity;
- infection prevention and control;
- medicines management;
- delays in elements of treatment;
- workforce compliance in relation to mandatory training; and patient handover arrangements.

The CQC recognised positive aspects of the service, including compassionate care, strong teamwork and positive patient feedback regarding staff attitude and professionalism

3. Implications for the Council

3.1 Council Plan

Effective scrutiny of local health services contributes to improving outcomes for residents and supports the Council's role in holding NHS partners to account.

3.2 Financial Implications

No direct financial implications for Kirklees Council.

3.3 Legal Implications

No direct legal implications arising from this report.

3.4 Climate Change and Air Quality

Not applicable.

3.5 Other (eg Risk, Integrated Impact Assessment or Human Resources)

The quality and safety of urgent and emergency care services are matters of significant public interest. The report provides Members with an opportunity to seek assurance regarding the actions being taken by the Trust to address the issues identified by the Care Quality Commission.

4. Consultation

Not applicable.

5. Engagement

Not applicable.

6. Options

6.1 Options considered

The Committee is invited to consider the information presented by Calderdale and Huddersfield NHS Foundation Trust in relation to the Care Quality Commission inspection findings and the actions being undertaken to address the issues identified.

Following consideration of the report and presentation, the Committee may determine whether it is satisfied with the assurances provided or whether any further scrutiny, monitoring or reporting is required.

6.2 Reasons for recommended option

Members are advised to assess the inspection findings, understand the Trust's response and consider any implications for the reconfiguration programme.

7. Next steps and timelines

Any further action arising from consideration of this item, including requests for additional information or future updates, will be determined by the Committee at the meeting.

8. Contact officer

Yolande Myers, Principal Governance Officer, Kirklees Council
Ben Marshall, Senior Scrutiny Officer, Calderdale Council

9. Background Papers and History of Decision

1. Minutes 25.06.2024
<https://calderdale.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s14385/Item%204%20-%202024.06.25%20Minutes.pdf>
2. Minutes 15.10.2024 [Minutes Template](#)

3. CQC Inspection Report <https://www.cqc.org.uk/location/RWY01/reports/LAP-02157/urgent-and-emergency-services>

10. Appendices

Appendix A – Report from CHFT

11. Service Director responsible

Samantha Lawton, Service Director Legal Governance & Commissioning