

Path to Excellence Consultation

**Report of Lorraine O'Donnell, Director of Transformation and
Partnerships**

Purpose of the Report

- 1 To provide members of the Adults Wellbeing and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee with background information in respect of the Path to Excellence consultation currently being undertaken by South Tyneside and Sunderland NHS Partnership.

Background

- 2 South Tyneside and Sunderland NHS Partnership launched a public consultation on 5th July 2017 asking for views and ideas on potential options for changes proposed for stroke; maternity (obstetrics); women's healthcare (gynaecology) and children and young people's healthcare (urgent and emergency paediatrics) hospital-based services in South Tyneside and Sunderland.
- 3 Under Section 244 of the NHS Act 2006, local NHS bodies have a duty to consult local Overview and Scrutiny Committees on proposals for any substantial development of the health service or substantial variation in the provision in their areas. Scrutiny Committees are also required to consider the extent of consultation undertaken.
- 4 Representatives from the Path to Excellence Programme Board attended the 'committee in common' of the two County Durham Clinical Commissioning Groups in June 2017. The proposed consultation programme was explained in detail to the committee, which supported the proposals in their current format. The committee also requested that the ongoing reconfiguration of health services in County Durham be considered, in particular the need to ensure that linkages are made to support 'vulnerable services' with the County Durham and Darlington Trust site of University Hospital of North Durham. The consultation schedule covers the core 'catchment area' of the two Trusts, and as such, consultation events have been undertaken across the Sunderland, South Tyneside and East Durham areas, with further events planned to be undertaken in September. Following feedback at the first East Durham event, it was agreed that there was a requirement to bring this matter to the Durham Adults Wellbeing and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

The Path to Excellence Public Consultation

- 5 The Consultation references a programme of clinical service reviews which commenced in 2016 that involved asking clinical staff in South Tyneside District Hospital and Sunderland Royal Hospital how stroke, maternity,

gynaecology and paediatrics services should be delivered. Each clinical team reviewed a number of options against key criteria, which was developed in line with the aims of the Path to Excellence programme and informed by service change best practice and national guidance from NHS England and NHS Improvement.

- 6 Copies of the Path to Excellence public consultation document and the public questionnaire have been placed on deposit in the Members Library.
- 7 Representatives of South Tyneside and Sunderland NHS Partnership will be in attendance to provide members with information detailing:-
 - The rationale for the review of stroke; maternity (obstetrics); women's healthcare (gynaecology) and children and young people's healthcare (urgent and emergency paediatrics) services ;
 - The proposed options for future configuration of the services being consulted upon; the number of people from County Durham affected by the proposed changes including admission rates from County Durham for each service;
 - The consultation, communication and engagement activities that will be undertaken in informing the local community about the review and what is being proposed and how they can input into the review process;
 - The decision making timelines proposed for each service change.
- 8 The consultation process commenced on 5th July 2017 and lasts until 15 October 2017 after which the feedback obtained during this process will be considered alongside the proposals to assist the CCGs in making a final decision. It is suggested that this feedback be reported back to this Committee prior to this final decision being made.

Recommendation

- 9 The Adults Wellbeing and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee is recommended to:-
 1. receive this report;
 2. note and comment on the information detailed within the Path to Excellence public consultation documents and the presentation given to the Committee;
 3. agree to a further report being brought back to the Adults Wellbeing and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee detailing the feedback from the communication and engagement activity prior to a final decision being made by the CCGs in respect of the proposals.

Background papers

None

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Appendix 1: Implications

Finance – None

Staffing – None

Risk – None

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty – Independent, Integrated, Equality, Health and Health Inequalities Impact Assessments have been undertaken.

These reports have been prepared by an independent public health specialist for the Path to Excellence Programme to ensure impartiality.

Health Inequalities Impact Assessment (HIIA) is a tool used during NHS service reform planning to assess the potential of any policy, plan, proposal or decision to reduce or increase health inequalities. Many policies have the potential to impact on health inequalities and this is critical information that the NHS will need to consider in making their final decision. These are substantial documents and can be found through the following links:-

Stroke Impact Assessment (114 pages)

<https://pathtoexcellence.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/FINAL-Stroke-IIA-080617.pdf>

Obstetrics and gynaecology Impact Assessment (112 pages)

<https://pathtoexcellence.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/FINAL-OG-IIA-250617.pdf>

Paediatrics Impact Assessment (95 pages)

<https://pathtoexcellence.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/FINAL-IIA-Paeds-110617.pdf>

Accommodation – None

Crime and Disorder – None

Human Rights – None

Consultation – The proposed consultation, communications and engagement plan for the review have been placed on deposit in the member's library.

Procurement – None

Disability Issues – None

Legal Implications – None