

1 June 2018



**NHS England Review of Specialised
Vascular Services**

**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 information in respect of proposals to reconfigure specialised and some non-specialised vascular services in the North East England.
- 2 A presentation will also be given to members by representatives of NHS England's North Region Specialised Commissioning Team setting out the proposed reconfiguration and associated consultation, engagement and communications plans.

Background

- 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 At a meeting of the North East Joint Health Scrutiny Committee held on 15 February 2018, representatives of NHS England's North Region Specialised Commissioning Team presented a report and gave a presentation in respect of proposals to review specialised and some non-vascular services across the North East.
- 5 NHS England commissions adult specialised vascular services, including vascular surgery and vascular interventional radiology services. Clinical Commissioning Groups commission non-specialised vascular services, for example, the treatment of varicose veins. Vascular services manage the treatment and care of patients with vascular disease relating to disorders of arteries, veins and the lymphatic system. Arteries take blood from the heart to all parts of the body and the lymphatic system is a network of tissue and organs that fights infection and rids the body of toxins and waste.
- 6 Vascular surgery is done to reconstruct, unblock or bypass arteries to restore blood flow to organs. These procedures reduce the risk of sudden death, prevent stroke and reduce the risk of amputation. Vascular interventional radiology uses a range of minimally invasive techniques that diagnose and/or treat vascular diseases. Examples of specialised vascular surgery include:

- Abdominal aortic aneurysm (AAA) - a bulge or swelling in the aorta which is the main artery that runs from the heart down through the chest and stomach. The main risk is rupture which can be fatal without emergency surgery. The majority of surgery is carried out on un-ruptured AAAs.
 - Stroke prevention (carotid artery intervention) – removes ‘furring’ or hardening from arteries that carry blood to the brain.
 - Lower limb amputation.
- 7 Patients with vascular disorders are cared for by specialist vascular teams, which include vascular surgeons, vascular interventional radiologists, vascular anaesthetists, vascular scientists, nurses, radiographers, physiotherapists and rehabilitation specialists.
- 8 Currently, South Tees Hospital NHS Foundation Trust (James Cook University Hospital), County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust (University Hospital of North Durham), City Hospitals Sunderland NHS Foundation Trust (Sunderland Royal Hospital) and Newcastle Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (Freeman Hospital) all offer a full vascular service within the North East. Regardless of where patients live, they are able to choose where they have their planned specialised vascular surgery.
- 9 A case for change, by the Northern England Strategic Clinical Network, and an independent clinical review, carried out by the Vascular Society of Great Britain and Ireland, have both recommended that full vascular services should be delivered from the three vascular centres, located in Middlesbrough, Newcastle and Sunderland – rather than four. A copy of both reports is attached to this report (Appendices 2 and 3)

Latest position

- 10 At the North East Joint Health Scrutiny Committee, members noted that the major impact of the recommendations of the independent clinical review was upon residents of County Durham with the loss of some vascular services from University Hospital North Durham. Due to the absence of the County Councillor Robinson from the meeting due to illness, the Joint Committee resolved that the discussions be noted and the proposals reconsidered by the Joint Committee after consideration by Durham County Council’s health scrutiny committee and provision of the consultation responses and business case to the joint Committee.
- 11 The issue was considered by the Committee at its meeting held on 13 April 2018 when a briefing paper from NHS England’s North Region Specialised Commissioning Team was circulated to members setting out the rationale for change, the recommendations arising from the case for change and independent clinical review of vascular services provision and the proposals for communications and engagement activity by NHS England, in partnership with the relevant CCGs and Trusts, in respect of the proposed reconfiguration of services.

- 12 Representatives of NHS England's North Region Specialised Commissioning Team had planned to attend the 13 April meeting but were advised that this would contravene the local government election purdah regulations. As a result, the Committee agreed to hold today's special meeting to consider the proposals in more detail.
- 13 In considering the report however, the Committee agreed that the Chair write to NHS England's North Region specialised commissioning team setting out their initial concerns in respect of the proposals to allow more detailed information to be brought before the Committee. A copy of this letter is attached to this report (Appendix 4).
- 14 Representatives of NHS England North Region specialised Commissioning team will be in attendance along with vascular service clinicians to provide members with information detailing the rationale for the review; the current activity in respect of specialised vascular services and the proposed 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.
- 15 Details of the vascular activity undertaken at County Durham and Darlington NHS FT are detailed in the attached spreadsheet. (Appendix 5)

Recommendation

- 16 The Adults Wellbeing and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee is recommended to:-
 1. receive this report;
 2. note and comment on this report and the presentation provided by NHS England's North Region Specialised Commissioning Team in respect of the proposals to reconfigure specialised and some non-specialised vascular services in the North East and the associated communications and engagement plans;
 3. Agree to feedback to the North East Regional Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee the views of this Committee when this matter is next considered.

Background papers

North East Joint Health Scrutiny Committee Agenda and papers – 15 February 2018
Durham County Council Adults Wellbeing and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee agenda and papers – 13 April 2018

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Appendix 1: Implications

Finance - None

Staffing - None

Risk - None

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty – None

Accommodation - None

Crime and Disorder - None

Human Rights - None

Consultation – The consultation, communications and engagement plan for the proposed review will be developed by NHS England’s North Region specialised commissioning team and reported to the Committee.

Procurement - None

Disability Issues - None

Legal Implications – None