

Special Adults Wellbeing and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee

7 September 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 further 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 further detailed information gathered by NHS England in response to the Committee's recommendations at its special meeting held on 1 June 2018.

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. The presentation set out the services affected and the 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, which recommended that full vascular services should be delivered from the three vascular centres, located in Middlesbrough, Newcastle and Sunderland – rather than four.
- 5 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.

- 6 The issue was considered by the Committee at its special meeting held on 1 June 2018 when representatives of NHS England North Region specialised Commissioning team attended 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.
- 7 Members considered carefully the proposals and agreed to recommend to the North East Regional Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee that:-
- (i) The clinical case for the reduction from 4 to 3 specialised vascular services centres in the North East is accepted by Durham County Council's Adults Wellbeing and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee;
 - (ii) The rationale for the selection of Sunderland Royal Hospital as the third regional specialised vascular services centre is disputed from a geographical perspective as this would leave almost half of County Durham more than an hour's travel away from specialised vascular services;
 - (iii) The County Council's Adults Wellbeing and Health OSC believes that the proposals constitute a substantial development and significant variation in health services and that statutory consultation is required under Section 244 of the NHS Act 2006, particularly in respect of the decision of the location of the third regional centre for specialised vascular services between University Hospital North Durham and Sunderland Royal Hospital;
 - (iv) The proposed communication and engagement activity in respect of the proposed review needs to be widened to ensure that the whole population of County Durham have the opportunity to provide their views on the proposals given the significant impact upon Durham of the preferred option.
- 8 In response to the recommendations submitted by Durham County Council to the North East Joint Health Scrutiny Committee meeting on the 21 June 2018, the Committee :-
- (i) Accepted the clinical case for the reduction from 4 to 3 specialised vascular services centres in the North East.
 - (ii) Recognised the variation in impact, in terms of the detail of the proposals across each North East local authority area, and agreed that it would not be possible for the Joint Committee to submit a co-ordinated response to NHS England.
 - (iii) Referred the formulation, and submission, of a response to NHS England to each Local Authority.

- 9 Following this Committee's recommendations to the North East Joint Health Scrutiny Committee, NHS England responded with a series of follow up work which aimed to address the concerns expressed by this Committee, specifically:-
- (i) NHS England have asked both Organisations to undertake a rapid self-assessment of how they would become the third merged arterial centre in the region; considering infrastructure, finance and workforce requirements.
 - (ii) NHS England will further explore the concerns raised by members around travel and access times for the Durham, Darlington Easington and Sedgefield population and present back to the Durham Overview and Scrutiny Committee at the earliest opportunity.
 - (iii) NHS England in collaboration with CCG's have started early planning discussions with NEAS around travel impact. NEAS have agreed to undertake a rapid impact/modelling assessment and present back to commissioners on outcomes.
 - (iv) NHS England agreed to formally present back the outcomes in response to the recommendation to the Durham Overview and Scrutiny Committee at the earliest opportunity and hope that they are accepted which will enable the patient and public engagement activities to commence without further delay.
- 10 The intention of NHS England to commission this further work was reported back to this Committee on 6 July 2018 when the Committee agreed that the information be brought back to a special meeting of the Committee in September 2018.

Latest position

- 11 Representatives of NHS England, County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust and City Hospitals Sunderland NHS Foundation Trust will be in attendance to present the additional information requested above. An updated briefing paper prepared by NHS England is attached to this report (Appendix 2).

Recommendation

- 12 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.

Background papers

North East Joint Health Scrutiny Committee Agenda and papers – 15 February 2018 and 21 June 2018

Durham County Council Adults Wellbeing and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee agenda and papers – 13 April 2018

Durham County Council Special Adults Wellbeing and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee agenda and papers – 1 June 2018

Durham County Council Adults Wellbeing and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee agenda and papers – 6 July 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