

Report of the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development

Report to the Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Yorkshire and the Humber)

Date: 13 September 2013

Subject: Children's Congenital Cardiac Surgery: Service provision at Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust

Are specific electoral Wards affected?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s):		
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: Not applicable		
Appendix number: Not applicable		

Purpose

1. The purpose of this report is to provide an update on:
 - a. The current provision of children's heart surgery at Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust (LTHT); and,
 - b. Progress of the subsequent phases of the review of quality of children's heart surgery services at LTHT.

Background

2. On 28 March 2013 LTHT was presented with new mortality data from the Congenital Cardiac Audit Database (CCAD) by NHS England's Medical Director. This data indicated higher mortality rates at LTHT for 2010-11 and 2011-12 compared to other children's cardiac units in England. LTHT was also informed that two senior clinicians had independently raised concerns – one related to medical staffing of the unit and the other related to the quality delivered within it. In addition, at the meeting, a representative of the Care Quality Commission (CQC) informed LTHT that the CQC had information from patient complaints, which raised the concern that patients were being refused timely referrals to other Units for either a second opinion or for further treatment such as transplant.
3. LTHT decided to pause children's cardiac surgery pending further investigation – a decision supported by NHS England and the CQC.
4. At its previous meeting, on 10 April 2013, the Joint HOSC heard from representatives from NHS England, the CQC and LTHT. At that meeting details were provided of an

urgent Quality Surveillance Group (QSG) meeting (convened by NHS England on 2 April 2013) and a subsequent Risk Summit (held on 4 April 2013), where it had been agreed by NHS England, CQC, the NHS Trust Development Authority and LTHT that a review would be carried out.

5. It was reported that the review would have distinct phases, where the first phase had consisted of an urgent review of LTHT Children's Cardiac Unit to ascertain if there were significant and readily identifiable safety concerns.
6. It was outlined that the first phase review had focused on clinical governance processes, staffing capacity and capability, and the patient experience which included referral management and patient pathways in and out of the Unit. It was reported that the first phase review had found no evidence of immediate significant safety concerns in these areas and that surgery would be recommenced on a phased basis.
7. It was further reported that subsequent phases of the review work would involve:
 - a. A case note review of the deaths (mortality review) that have occurred and the complaints brought by a third Party.
 - b. Understanding data handling, the application of data relevant to Unit mortality and inter-Unit comparison at a national level
8. At the time of the Joint HOSC's previous meeting, the finalised report from the first phase review was not available. Therefore, for completeness, a copy of the full report is now appended to this report for information. This was formally published by NHS England on 23 April 2013 and includes the report from the National Institute for Cardiovascular Outcomes Research (NICOR) – which, on the request of NHS England, had provided an independent analysis of paediatric cardiac surgical mortality in units within England and Wales for 2009-12. As outlined in the statement released by NHS England, it is important that the two reports are considered jointly.

Main issues and considerations

9. As previously outlined, it was always intended that the review of quality would be undertaken in different phases. As such, a representative from NHS England has been invited to the meeting to provide a verbal update on further progress in this regard.
10. It is intended to invite LTHT to provide a written update on current service provision and progress on the unit since the first phase review and the recommendations made. It is hoped that this information will be presented at the meeting.

Recommendations

11. That the Joint HOSC:
 - a. Considers and comments on the details presented in this report, and outlined at the meeting
 - b. Identifies any additional scrutiny activity necessary at this stage.

Background documents¹

12. None used

¹ The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the Council's website, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works.