

Report of the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development

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

Date: 11 December 2013

Subject: The new review of Congenital Heart Disease services in England – draft revised Terms of Reference for the Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Yorkshire and the Humber)

Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
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? If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: Not applicable Appendix number: Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Purpose

1. The purpose of this report is to present revised, draft terms of reference for Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Yorkshire and the Humber), in respect of the new review of Congenital Heart Disease (CHD) services in England.

Background

2. In March 2011, a Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Yorkshire and the Humber) was established to consider the emerging proposals from the Safe and Sustainable Review of Children’s Congenital Cardiac Services in England and the options for public consultation agreed by the Joint Committee of Primary Care Trusts (JCPCT).
3. At that time, the terms of reference identified that purpose of the Joint HOSC’s work was to make an assessment of, and where appropriate, make recommendations on the potential options to reconfigure the delivery of Children’s Congenital Heart Services in England. It was highlighted that this would specifically include consideration of the:
 - Review process and formulation of options presented for consultation;
 - Projected improvements in patient outcomes and experience;
 - Likely impact on children and their families (in the short, medium and longer-term), in particular in terms of access to services and travel times;
 - Views of local service users and/or their representatives;

- Potential implications and impact on the health economy and the economy in general, on a local and regional basis;
 - Any other pertinent matters that arise as part of the Committee's inquiry.
4. Consideration was also given to the adequacy of the arrangements for consulting on the proposals, which was the subject of an unsuccessful referral to the Secretary of State for Health in October 2011.
 5. Following the JCPCT's decision on the proposed future model of care and designation of surgical centres on 4 July 2012, it became increasingly apparent that there would be significant issues associated implementation that the JHOSC wished to consider on an on-going basis. Revised terms of reference to reflect this position were agreed on 24 July 2012.
 6. However, notwithstanding the issues associated implementing the JCPCT's decision, in November 2012 the JHOSC referred the JCPCT's decision to the Secretary of State for Health. This was subsequently passed to the Independent Reconfiguration Panel (IRP) for consideration and advice, which was report to the Secretary of State for Health at the end of April 2013.
 7. On 12 June 2013, an announcement from the Secretary of State for Health accepted the IRP's report and recommendations in full and called a halt to the Safe and Sustainable review of Children's Congenital Cardiac Services in England.
 8. The IRP's full report and appendices, alongside a covering letter from the Secretary of State for Health were considered by the JHOSC at its previous meeting held on 13 September 2013.

Main issues and considerations

9. At its previous meeting, 13 September 2013, it was clarified that while the existing terms of reference for the JHOSC would need to be revised to reflect the changed approach to reviewing CHD services – which in turn may need approval from the constituent local authorities – it would not be necessary to formally dissolve the joint committee.
10. At that meeting, Members expressed their broad support for the work of the JHOSC to continue, insofar as it relates to the new CHD review, and specifically highlighted a number of points, including:
 - The strength of joint scrutiny arrangements across Yorkshire and the Humber, vis-à-vis the Safe and Sustainable review and proposals, was clearly evident in the Secretary of State's announcement in June 2013.
 - That the new CHD review would benefit from similar robust scrutiny arrangements as those in place for the Safe and Sustainable review.
 - Concern regarding the likely timescales for the new review and the processes necessary for agreeing revised terms of reference across fifteen constituent local authorities.
 - The need for a fair acceptance from those undertaking the new review (i.e. NHS England) that establishing joint health scrutiny arrangements could be a complex and time-consuming process that needed to be taken into account.
11. It was subsequently resolved that:

- (a) That the existing Joint HOSC arrangements be maintained, insofar as it might relate to the new review of congenital heart services in England.
 - (b) That, in collaboration with health scrutiny support officers across Yorkshire and the Humber, the Principal Scrutiny Adviser takes the necessary and appropriate action in support of (a) above, including:
 - i. Producing revised draft terms of reference to reflect the new review of congenital heart services in England (as it is currently understood);
 - ii. Ensuring the appropriate consideration and agreement of the draft revised terms of reference with the constituent local authorities.
 - (c) That the Chair and Principal Scrutiny Adviser undertake the necessary and appropriate action to help facilitate broader political discussions associated with the potential establishment of a standing joint health overview and scrutiny committee across Yorkshire and the Humber.
12. Due to competing demands, it has not been possible to take forward the above actions forward as speedily and as fully as previously hoped.
13. Nonetheless, it is proposed to present revised draft terms of reference for the work of the JHOSC to reflect the new review of congenital heart services in England (as it is currently understood) for comment and possible agreement.

Recommendations

14. That the JHOSC notes the report and considers the revised draft terms of reference for the work of the JHOSC presented at the meeting for comment and possible agreement.

Background documents¹

15. 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.