

Report of the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development

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

Date: 10 April 2014

Subject: NHS England's Review of Children's Heart Surgery Services 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 type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" 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 and consider a range of information associated with NHS England's ongoing review of quality of children's heart surgery services at Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust (LTHT).

Background

2. It has been reported that during 2013 a number of concerns were raised regarding the quality of Children's Heart Surgery Services provided at Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust (LTHT). These concerns led to the temporary closure of services on 28 March 2013, pending an investigation.
3. A Quality Surveillance Group (QSG) was convened by NHS England on 2 April 2013 to oversee the investigation process and a subsequent Risk Summit was held on 4 April 2013, where it was agreed by NHS England, Care Quality Commission, the NHS Trust Development Authority (NTDA) and LTHT that a two-phase review would be carried out.

Phase 1

4. The first phase of investigation consisted of a 'rapid review', which found no significant or immediate safety concerns and surgery re-commenced on 10 April 2013, whilst the second phase of investigation took place. However, it should be noted that the rapid review identified a number of improvements with associated recommendations for LTHT to action – details of which have previously been reported to the Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Yorkshire and the Humber) – the JHOSC.

Phase 2

5. It has previously been reported that the second phase of investigation would consist of three specific workstreams, namely:
 - A case note review of the child deaths that had occurred in the period from 2009 to 2012 which was the time period used in the collection of NICOR data (*Mortality Case Review*).
 - An investigation of the experiences, views and concerns of parents and families (*The Family Experience Review*).
 - An investigation of concerns being raised by other clinicians in relation to inter-unit transfers and patient pathways.
6. This report presents the findings of the Mortality Case Review and the Family Experience Report, published by NHS England on 13 March 2014.

Main issues and considerations

Phase 1

7. Following the areas for improvement and recommendations identified during the 'rapid review', the JHOSC has sought assurance regarding the implementation of those recommendations and associated reporting arrangements.
8. The meeting provides a further opportunity to consider progress in this area. It also provides an opportunity to consider any outstanding matters leading up to the temporary suspension of services at LTHT in March / April 2013.
9. Senior representatives from the following organisations have been invited to attend the meeting to assist the JHOSC in this area:
 - NHS England – specifically the NHS Medical Director and Deputy Medical Director;
 - Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust;
 - NHS Trust Development Authority (NTDA);
 - The Care Quality Commission (CQC).

Phase 2

10. As mentioned above, on 13 March 2014, NHS England published the findings of the Mortality Case Review and the Family Experience Report. These reports are attached at Appendix 1 to this report.
11. The meeting provides an opportunity to consider the findings of these reports in detail and proposals to address any identified recommendations.
12. The following representatives have been invited to attend the meeting to assist the JHOSC in this area:
 - The named report authors for each report, namely Dr Damian Riley and Professor Cantrill
 - NHS England;
 - Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust;
 - NHS Trust Development Authority (NTDA);
 - The Care Quality Commission (CQC).

13. It should also be noted that additional submissions have been made for consideration of these matters. These have been provided by:
- The Children's Heart Surgery Fund (CHSF) – Appendix 2
 - John Gibbs (recently retired (2012) consultant paediatric cardiologist at Leeds; former President of British Congenital Cardiac Association and lead clinician for national audit in congenital heart disease (CCAD/NICOR)) – Appendix 3.
14. Representatives from CHSF will be in attendance at the meeting, however Mr Gibbs is unable to attend due to prior commitments.

Recommendations

15. That the JHOSC considers the details presented in this report and outlined at the meeting, and identifies any specific actions and/or additional scrutiny.

Background documents¹

16. 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.