

Report of the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development

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

Date: 25 November 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 present the Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (JHOSC) for Yorkshire and the Humber with further 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 at a subsequent Risk Summit meeting (held on 4 April 2013), it was agreed 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, while the second phase of investigation took place.
5. It should be noted that, while no immediate safety concerns were identified, the rapid review highlighted a number of recommendations and areas for improvement. Some details of LTHT's actions and progress have previously been reported to the JHOSC.

Phase 2

6. It has previously been confirmed 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 raised by other clinicians in relation to inter-unit transfers and patient pathways (*The Independent Review of Concerns about Paediatric Cardiac Surgery at LTHT*).
7. It was subsequently confirmed that an 'Overarching Report' would also be produced, drawing together the outcomes and key themes from each of the three specific workstreams.
8. The reports, findings and recommendations from the Mortality Case Review and the Family Experience Report were published by NHS England in March 2014 and were subsequently considered by the JHOSC in April 2010.
9. Both these reports highlighted a number of recommendations and areas for improvement. While the JHOSC received a verbal address on proposed actions against the recommendations, the joint committee has not considered a formal written response and/or progress report against the identified areas for improvement.

Main issues and considerations

10. The main purpose of this report is to present the Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (JHOSC) for Yorkshire and the Humber with the following information:
 - The Independent Review of Concerns about Paediatric Cardiac Surgery at LTHT (presented as Appendix 1); and,
 - Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust: Overarching Report about Paediatric Cardiac Surgery (presented at Appendix 2).
11. Both reports were published by NHS England in October 2014 following completion by Verita – an independent organisation commissioned by NHS England to undertake the review and produce its findings.
12. Senior representatives from NHS England, Verita and Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust have been invited to attend the joint committee to present both reports and help members consider and discuss the associated findings and recommendations.
13. To further assist the JHOSC consider the reports, representatives from other interested parties, including Children's Heart Surgery Fund (CHSF), have also been invited to attend the meeting and assist the joint committee in its consideration of both reports and subsequent deliberations.

Other considerations

14. Following the areas for improvement and recommendations identified from the 'rapid review', the JHOSC has sought assurance regarding the implementation of those

recommendations and associated reporting arrangements. The meeting provides a further opportunity to seek further assurance in this area.

15. Actions against the findings and recommendations from the Mortality Case Review and the Family Experience Report have not been formally reported (i.e. by way of a written report) to the JHOSC. The JHOSC may wish to seek further verbal assurance against the identified areas for improvement and recommendations.
16. Nonetheless, members will consider any further actions/ activity in this area elsewhere on the agenda.

Recommendations

17. To note and comment on the details presented in this report, appendices and matters discussed at the meeting.

Background documents¹

18. 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.