

# Safe and Sustainable

Children's Neurosurgery Services Bulletin

September 2009

## Welcome

Welcome to the first e-bulletin for the **Safe and Sustainable** review of children's neurosurgical services.

The aim of this and future e-bulletins is to up-date you on progress, key developments and diary dates, and remind you how you can contribute to the review. The **Safe and Sustainable** Steering Group wants to hear from as many people as possible, so please pass this bulletin onto your colleagues.

## Building a world class service

In 2009, the NHS Medical Director, Professor Sir Bruce Keogh asked the National Specialised Commissioning Group (NSCG) to conduct a review of children's neurosurgical services in England.

The aim of the review is to deliver, within two years, robust proposals that will secure a safe, sustainable and world class service for children and their families.

The NSCG has established a Steering Group to lead the review, chaired by Mr Paul Chumas, a consultant paediatric neurosurgeon and former chair of the British Paediatric Neurosurgeons Group. The Steering Group will report regularly to the NSCG.

The Steering Group is supported by a working group, responsible for developing service specification standards for children's neurosurgery services. This group is jointly chaired by Mr Ian Pople, a consultant paediatric neurosurgeon and member of the Society of British Neurological Surgeons and Dr Geoffrey Carroll, Medical Director of Health Commission Wales.

Secretariat support for the review is provided by the National Specialised Commissioning Team.

Full details of the membership of these groups, terms of reference and meeting papers can be found at [www.specialisedcommissioning.nhs.uk](http://www.specialisedcommissioning.nhs.uk) or by contacting the review team (contact details are provided below).

## Review update

The focus for the **Safe and Sustainable** Steering Group in 2009 is to:

- review current arrangements for children's neurosurgical services including levels of need and activity in each of the 15 centres in England
- develop criteria for a formal designation process that ensures that children's neurosurgical services meet service specification standards, as well as meet national demand
- develop service specification standards that will form a national quality framework within which children's neurosurgery centres will be assessed
- canvass the views of stakeholders on the future shape of children's neurosurgical services.

The Steering Group will be asking for views on the draft designation and service specification standards at its first national stakeholder event in November 2009. See the item below for event details.

## Delivering recommendations

The process for developing recommendations for future service configuration will be overseen by the National Specialised Commissioning Group (NSCG). In 2010 the NSCG will consider the outcome of the Steering Group's initial review, and will ask NHS commissioners to develop recommendations for future service configuration. These recommendations will be worked up in consultation with local stakeholders, and the NSCG will ensure that recommendations are consistent with the overall aims of the **Safe and Sustainable** programme.

Once the NSCG has considered the recommendations, it will seek views and opinions from all stakeholders via a comprehensive public consultation.

## National stakeholder event

The NSCG and the Steering Group want the process for review to be inclusive and for all stakeholders to be able to contribute to the work of the review. A series of stakeholder events will be held over 2009 and 2010, starting with a national event in London on 30 November 2009.

Do you want to help build world class children's neurosurgical services for the future? Then secure your place at the first national stakeholder event for the **Safe and Sustainable** children's neurosurgery services review by contacting **Robin Matheou** on **020 7932 9122** or [robin.matheou@nsscq.nhs.uk](mailto:robin.matheou@nsscq.nhs.uk)

Event details are as follows:

**Date:** Monday, 30 November 2009

**Time:** From 9.30am to 4.30pm

**Venue:** Dexter House, No.2 Royal Mint Court, Tower Hill, London, EC3N 4QN.

## Have your say

The **Safe and Sustainable** Steering Group wants to hear from anyone who has views on the future delivery of children's neurosurgical services in England.

You can do so by:

- writing to Jeremy Glyde, Programme Manager, National Specialised Commissioning Team, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor Southside, 105 Victoria Street, London, SW1E 6QT
- call Jeremy on 020 7932 3958
- e-mailing **ChildNeuro@nsscq.nhs.uk**