



Report of the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development

Scrutiny Board (Health)

Date: 24 November 2009

Subject: Provision of Dermatology Services

Electoral Wards Affected:

Ward Members consulted
(referred to in report)

Specific Implications For:

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

1.0 Purpose of this Report

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to present the Scrutiny Board (Health) with a range of information to assist members to consider current developments associated with the provision of dermatology services, particularly in terms of inpatient provision on ward 43 at Leeds General Infirmary (LGI).

2.0 Background

- 2.1 The proposed changes to dermatology services are a result of the broader Clinical Services Reconfiguration (CSR), which will see the centralisation of children's inpatient services at LGI. This will also result in the centralisation of Older People's Medicine and Acute Medicine for Adults at St. James' University Hospital.
- 2.2 The Scrutiny Board (Health) has been broadly aware of proposals associated with CSR, but has not previously been made aware of any specific proposals associated with dermatology services, including any changes relating to inpatient capacity.
- 2.3 In early October, members of the Scrutiny Board became aware of potential changes in the provision of dermatology services, particularly in terms of inpatient provision on ward 43 at Leeds General Infirmary (LGI). Concurrently, two separate requests for the proposals to be examined in more detail were received. These, independent, requests came from patients and the British Association of Dermatologists (BAD).
- 2.4 At its previous meeting, 21 October 2009, the Scrutiny Board was advised that initially, given the timing of the publicity and the requests for scrutiny, the Chair of the Scrutiny Board took this issue forward on behalf of the Board by:

- Issuing a letter to the Chief Executive of LTHT (copied to NHS Leeds) seeking a moratorium on any further action until the Scrutiny Board had the opportunity to consider the issues in more detail. The letter also sought a range of additional information and points of clarification regarding the proposals;
- Acknowledging receipt of the requests for scrutiny and inviting those making the requests to attend a future meeting of the Scrutiny Board.

2.5 The Scrutiny Board (Health) was also advised that, at that time, a formal response from LTHT had not been received.

3.0 Dermatology Services – proposed changes

3.1 In the letter to LTHT, the Chair of the Scrutiny Board requested information and sought clarification on the following matters:

- Services (and associated arrangements) currently provided on Ward 43;
- Catchment area for which LTHT is the nearest centre providing both in-patient and out patient dermatology services;
- The detailed outline of proposals to vary the services currently provided (i.e. which services will be affected and how will the delivery change), including the rationale and an outline of the benefits to patients;
- Current / planned engagement and involvement of all key stakeholders; and,
- Proposed timescales.

3.2 A response from LTHT has now been received and is attached at Appendix 1 for the Board's consideration.

3.3 Since the public reporting of the developments / changes associated with the provision of dermatology services, LTHT has received communication from a range of stakeholders, including patients, the British Association of Dermatologists (BAD), local Members of Parliament and other dermatology service areas for which LTHT provide a tertiary referral service. Examples of these communications are provided at Appendix 2 and Appendix 3.

3.4 A range of interested parties have been invited to attend the Board meeting to help members consider the proposed changes and any associated impacts.

4.0 Recommendation

4.1 Members of Scrutiny Board are asked to consider the information presented and determine any:

- 4.1.1 Specific action the Board may wish to take;
- 4.1.2 Recommendations the Board may wish to make;
- 4.1.3 Matters that require further scrutiny.

5.0 Background Papers

None