



Report of the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development

Scrutiny Board (Health)

Date: 26 April 2011

Subject: National Review of Children's Congenital Cardiac Services – progress report

Electoral Wards Affected:

Ward Members consulted
(referred to in report)

Specific Implications For:

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

1.0 Purpose

1.1 The provide the Scrutiny Board (Health) with an update around the national review of children's congenital heart services and the associated work of the Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Yorkshire and the Humber) – the regional scrutiny body specifically formed to consider the proposals.

2.0 Background

2.1 In 2008 the NHS Medical Director requested a review of Children's Congenital Heart Services in England. The aim of the review was to develop and bring forward recommendations for a *Safe and Sustainable* national service that has:

- Better results in surgical centres with fewer deaths and complications following surgery
- Better, more accessible assessment services and follow up treatment delivered within regional and local networks
- Reduced waiting times and fewer cancelled operations
- Improved communication between parents/ guardians and all of the services in the network that see their child
- Better training for surgeons and their teams to ensure the service is sustainable for the future
- A trained workforce of experts in the care and treatment of children and young people with congenital heart disease
- Surgical centres at the forefront of modern working practices and new technologies that are leaders in research and development
- A network of specialist centres collaborating in research and clinical development, encouraging the sharing of knowledge across the network

2.2 As part of the above review programme, members of Leeds City Council's Scrutiny Board (Health) were formally made aware of the review of Children's Cardiac

Surgery Services across England in September 2009 and advised that 11 centres across England were providing Children's Cardiac Surgery Services, with around 3,800 procedures being undertaken each year..

- 2.3 Since that time, the Board has received a number of updates outlining progress of the review and key milestones. Throughout the review process, the Board has been reminded that Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust is the only provider of such surgical services in the Yorkshire and Humber region and that one of the issues being considered centred around a smaller number of larger centres, each undertaking a higher number of surgical procedures.

Review process

- 2.4 On behalf of the ten Specialised Commissioning Groups in England, and their constituent local Primary Care Trusts, the *Safe and Sustainable* review team (at NHS Specialised Services) has managed the review process. This has involved:

- Engaging with partners across the country to understand what works well at the moment and what needs to be changed
- Developing standards – in partnership with the public, NHS staff and their associations – that surgical centres must meet in the future
- Developing a network model of care to help strengthen local cardiology services
- An independent expert panel assessment of each of the current surgical centres against the standards
- The consideration of a number of potential configuration options against other criteria including access, travel times and population.

- 2.5 At a meeting of the Joint Committee of Primary Care Trusts (JCPCT) – the national body established to agree the review recommendations – held on 16 February 2011, the following recommendations and options for consultation were presented and agreed:

- Development of Congenital Heart Networks across England that would comprise all of the NHS services that provide care to children with Congenital Heart Disease and their families, from antenatal screening through to the transition to adult services.
- Implementation of new clinical standards that must be met by all NHS hospitals designated to provide heart surgery for children
- Implementation of new systems for the analysis and reporting of mortality and morbidity data relating to treatments for children with Congenital Heart Disease.
- A reduction in the number of NHS hospitals in England that provide heart surgery for children from the current 11 hospitals to 6 or 7 hospitals in the belief that only larger surgical centres can achieve true quality and excellence.
- The options for the number and location of hospitals that provide children's heart surgical services in the future are:

Option A: Seven surgical centres at:

- Freeman Hospital, Newcastle
- Alder Hey Children's Hospital, Liverpool
- Glenfield Hospital, Leicester
- Birmingham Children's Hospital
- Bristol Royal Hospital for Children
- 2 centres in London¹

¹ The preferred two London centres in the four options are Evelina Children's Hospital and Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children

Option B: Seven surgical centres at:

- Freeman Hospital, Newcastle
- Alder Hey Children's Hospital, Liverpool
- Birmingham Children's Hospital
- Bristol Royal Hospital for Children
- Southampton General Hospital
- 2 centres in London¹

Option C: Six surgical centres at:

- Freeman Hospital, Newcastle
- Alder Hey Children's Hospital, Liverpool
- Birmingham Children's Hospital
- Bristol Royal Hospital for Children
- 2 centres in London¹

Option D: Six surgical centres at:

- Leeds General Infirmary
- Alder Hey Children's Hospital, Liverpool
- Birmingham Children's Hospital
- Bristol Royal Hospital for Children
- 2 centres in London¹

2.6 A period of public consultation has commenced and will run until 1 July 2011.

3.0 Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Yorkshire and the Humber)

3.1 At its meeting in December 2010, and in line with the Regional Joint Health Scrutiny Protocol, Leeds City Council's Scrutiny Board (Health) nominated its representatives towards establishing a Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Yorkshire and the Humber).

3.2 Since the announcement of the consultation options, Health Overview and Scrutiny Committees from other authorities across the region indicated their desire to form a joint scrutiny committee and confirmed their nominations accordingly. In line with the Regional Joint Health Scrutiny Protocol, Leeds City Council is providing the Chair and support to the Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Yorkshire and the Humber). With all 15 authorities participating in such arrangements, membership of the joint committee is based on one member per authority and is as follows:

- Barnsley MBC – Cllr. Janice Hancock
- Bradford MDC – Cllr. Elaine Byrom
- Calderdale Council – Cllr. Ruth Goldthorpe
- City of York Council – Cllr. Sandy Fraser
- Doncaster MBC – Cllr. Georgina Mullis
- East Riding of Yorkshire Council – Cllr. Barbara Hall
- Hull City Council – Cllr. John Hewitt
- Kirklees Council – Cllr. Liz Smaje
- Leeds City Council – Cllr. Mark Dobson (Chair)
- North East Lincolnshire Council – Cllr. Peggy Elliot
- North Lincolnshire Council – Cllr. Trevor Barker
- North Yorkshire County Council – Cllr. Jim Clark
- Rotherham MBC – Cllr. Shaukat Ali

- Sheffield City Council – Cllr. Ian Saunders
- Wakefield Council – Cllr. Betty Rhodes

3.3 The joint committee held its first meeting on 14 March 2011, where it agreed its terms of reference and received a presentation, giving a broad outline of the proposals, from representatives of Specialised Commissioning Group (Yorkshire and the Humber). The joint committee will consider the options presented and the likely implications across the Yorkshire and Humber region. This will 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.

3.4 At its second meeting, 29 March 2010, the joint committee received an initial response to the proposals from Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust and met with senior representatives from the Trust – including the Chief Executive and senior clinicians.

3.5 Following discussions at the meeting, the joint committee identified some concern with both the process of the public consultation and with its timing. As such, the joint committee agreed to seek a 3-month extension to the consultation exercise, to allow sufficient time for it to complete its review and issue its report and any recommendations. Members of the national review team have been made aware of this outcome and a formal report is currently being drafted in this regard.

3.6 The joint committee also agreed an outline/ indicative action plan to undertake its review. This is attached at Appendix 1. The next meeting date of the joint committee has not yet been confirmed.

4.0 Recommendations

4.1 Members of the Board are asked to note the update provided and identify any specific matters for consideration by the Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Yorkshire and the Humber).

5.0 Background Documents

- A New Vision for Children's Congenital Heart Services in England: Consultation Document – March 2011
- Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Yorkshire and the Humber) – Terms of Reference (agreed March 2011)
- Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Yorkshire and the Humber) – agenda and reports – 14 March 2011
- Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Yorkshire and the Humber) – agenda and reports – 29 March 2011