

Report of Head of Scrutiny and Member Development

Report to Scrutiny Board (Health and Well-Being and Adult Social Care)

Date: 25 January 2012

Subject: Review of Children’s Neurosurgical Services – local implications

Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
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? If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Summary of main issues

1. The purpose of the report is to present an update on the progress of the national review of children’s neurosurgical services in England. This will help the Scrutiny Board explore the local implications of the review outcomes.
2. Information regarding this national review first emerged in October 2009 – with services currently delivered through 15 centres across England. At that time, it was highlighted that the review followed on from clinical concerns about the sustainability of the current service arrangements.
3. Members of the Scrutiny Board will be aware of a similar review, associated with Children’s Cardiac Services. However at an early stage in the review process, it was highlighted that each of review would be separate and the findings of one would not directly inform the other. Nonetheless, it was also highlighted that there would be areas of overlap in respect of the impact on paediatric infrastructure, for example, paediatric intensive care capacity; paediatric anaesthetic support and paediatric imaging support.

Regional Health Scrutiny Member Network

4. At a regional Health Scrutiny Member Network meeting (which involves the Chairs of each of the 15 local authority Health Overview and Scrutiny Committees), representatives from the Yorkshire and Humber Specialised Commissioning Group attended to provide an update on the national review. The briefing note provided at that meeting is attached at Appendix 1.

5. Given the regional nature and potential implications of the proposals, consideration was given to proposing a joint regional health scrutiny committee to formally consider the outcome of the review and potential changes to services. However, at this stage there was limited support for this approach.
6. Given that Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust (LTHT) is currently a provider of such services, this information is being presented to the Scrutiny Board to help members explore the review outcomes and the local implications.

Health Service Developments Working Group

7. At a local level, the Health Service Developments Working Group (HSDWG) has been made aware of the review process, however limited information has been presented to date and it was agreed that more detailed consideration of the review should be undertaken by the Scrutiny Board. The following issues have been raised:
 - A range of additional information is needed, including:
 - A more detailed timetable;
 - Profile of service users – e.g. age of patients, range / average length of stay;
 - An outline of where services are currently accessed and future proposals;
 - Forecast number of patients and likely patient flows (regional and Leeds specific (if available));
 - Confirmation of current facilities (including co-located services) and proposed facilities;
 - Formal consideration needs to be given regarding the ‘significance’ of the proposed changes (The level of significance attached to the proposals appear to have been open to interpretation – initially presented as Level 4 (major/ substantial) service changes in November 2011, and more recently (January 2012) presented as a Level 3 (significant) change.
 - Consideration of the impact on other related services and/or organisations, such as Yorkshire Ambulance Service and Embrace.
8. NHS representatives, from a service commissioning, service provider and emergency transport perspective, have been invited to attend the meeting. Attendance is still to be confirmed, but it is hoped that this will help to provide the Scrutiny Board with the opportunity to explore any identified issues in more detail.

Recommendations

9. To consider the information presented and seek to determine the appropriate level of service change and associated level of public involvement and engagement.
10. To identify any additional information that may be required and determine any further scrutiny activity that may be required.

Background documents

- Health Service Developments Working Group – horizon scanning November 2011 and January 2012