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Late item for 31st July 2013 Scrutiny Board (Health and Well-being and Adult Social Care)

Pages 1-4: Agenda item 13 – Request for Scrutiny – Children’s epilepsy surgery – To receive and consider a report from the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development presenting a request for scrutiny submitted by Dr Colin Ferrie, Consultant Paediatric neurologist and Mr Paul Chumas, Consultant Paediatric Neurosurgeon, both clinicians at Leeds General Infirmary (LGI). The request relates to the treatment of children with epilepsy.

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Report of Head of Scrutiny and Member Development

Report to Safer and Stronger (Health and Well-Being and Adult Social Care)

Date: 31st July 2013

Subject: Request for Scrutiny – Children’s epilepsy surgery

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. A request for Scrutiny has been received from Dr Colin Ferrie, Consultant Paediatric neurologist and Mr Paul Chumas, Consultant Paediatric Neurosurgeon, both clinicians at the LGI. The request relates to the treatment of children with epilepsy.
2. The details of the request are attached as appendix 1. Dr Ferrie has been invited to attend the Scrutiny Board meeting to present his concerns to the Board.
3. The decision whether or not to further investigate matters raised by a request for scrutiny is the sole responsibility of the Scrutiny Board. As such, any decision in this regard is final and there is no right of appeal.
4. When considering the request for Scrutiny, the Scrutiny Board may wish to consider:
 - If further information is required before considering whether further scrutiny should be undertaken;
 - If a similar or related issue is already being examined by Scrutiny or has been considered by Scrutiny recently;
 - If the matter raised is of sufficient significance and has the potential for scrutiny to produce realistic recommendations that could be implemented and lead to tangible improvements;
 - The impact on the Board’s current workload;
 - The time available to undertake further scrutiny;
 - The level of resources required to carry out further scrutiny;
 - Whether an Inquiry should be undertaken.

Recommendations

5. The Scrutiny Board is asked to:

- (i) Consider the request for Scrutiny.
- (ii) Determine if it wishes to undertake further scrutiny of this matter.

Background papers¹

6. 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.

Request for Scrutiny – Children’s epilepsy surgery

Submission from Dr Colin Ferrie, Consultant Paediatric neurologist and Mr Paul Chumas, Consultant Paediatric Neurosurgeon

We are clinicians at the LGI involved in the evaluation and surgical treatment of children with epilepsy. You may be aware that recently the specialist commissioners designated 4 paediatric epilepsy surgery centres in England. There was no public consultation or involvement in the process because the purpose was said to be about procurement of additional surgery. However, it has gone much further and the end result may be that children’s epilepsy surgery will only be commissioned from the four designated centres.

None of the designated centres are in Yorkshire, or indeed the north east of England. Consequently, children who previously were treated in Leeds will have to travel elsewhere, probably to London, Liverpool or Manchester. This is a consequence not of a detailed consideration of what is in the best interests of the patients but purely because the Trusts in Leeds, Sheffield and Newcastle were unable to reach agreement and consequently no bid went forward from region.

We are of the opinion that the process followed has been deeply flawed for a number of reasons and the losers are children requiring epilepsy surgery and their families. We would like to discuss these matters further with you, if you think this concerns matters within your remit.

19th July 2013

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