

Report of Head of Democratic Services

Report to Scrutiny Board (Adults, Health & Active Lifestyles)

Date: 16th March 2021

Subject: Leeds Fertility IVF service

Are specific electoral wards affected? If yes, name(s) of ward(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Has consultation been carried out?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Will the decision be open 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

1. Purpose of this report

- 1.1 This report presents information from the Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust on proposals to explore and test the market for opportunities to grow and sustain the Leeds Fertility IVF service in light of a changing competitive market in Leeds.
- 1.2 Representatives from the Trust have also been invited to today's meeting to discuss this further with Board Members.

2. Background information

- 2.1 The Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust (LTHT) provides both NHS and private reproductive medicine services operating under the trading name Leeds Fertility.
- 2.2 Until recently, Leeds was the only major city in England without a private commercial company providing IVF services. However, the Trust is aware that at least one private competitor is now open in the city and the potential implications of this are that Leeds Fertility would then be in direct competition with these providers and potentially lose income and NHS staff to the new providers.
- 2.3 To mitigate the risk to the fertility services provided by Leeds Fertility and to ensure they continue to be provided at Seacroft Hospital, Leeds Teaching Hospitals proposes to tender the Leeds Fertility IVF service for a contract period of ten years.

3. Main issues

- 3.1 A briefing paper produced jointly by the Trust's General Manager (Womens Services CSU) and Clinical Director (Womens Services CSU) is appended to this report for consideration by the Scrutiny Board. This includes an overview of the current service; details of the proposal and its impact on patients; steps taken to engage with staff and patients; and health and equality impacts associated with the proposal.

4. Corporate considerations

4.1. Consultation and engagement

- 4.1.1. The attached briefing paper gives an overview of the steps taken by the Trust to engage with staff and patients.
- 4.1.2. Representatives from the Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust have been invited to today's meeting to present and discuss the attached briefing paper.

4.2. Equality and diversity / cohesion and integration

- 4.2.1 The Scrutiny Board Procedure Rules state that, where appropriate, all work undertaken by Scrutiny Boards will '...review how and to what effect consideration has been given to the impact of a service or policy on all equality areas, as set out in the Council's Equality and Diversity Scheme'.
- 4.2.2 The Scrutiny Board may therefore wish to explore any specific Equality and Diversity issues relating to this matter.

4.3. Council policies and the Best Council Plan

- 4.3.1 The terms of reference of the Scrutiny Boards promote a strategic and outward looking Scrutiny function that focuses on the best council ambitions and objectives.

Climate Emergency

- 4.3.2 The Scrutiny Board may wish to consider any specific climate emergency or sustainability issues relating to this matter.

4.4. Resources, procurement and value for money

- 4.4.1 This report has no specific financial implications at this time. Any appropriate matters will need to be taken into account if any additional scrutiny activity is deemed appropriate and if any specific recommendations are being considered.

4.5. Legal implications, access to information, and call-in

- 4.5.1. There are no specific legal implications arising from this report at this time. Any specific matters may need to be taken into account if any additional scrutiny activity is deemed appropriate and if any specific recommendations are being considered.

4.6. Risk management

- 4.6.1 The information provided in this report largely relates to external organisations, which may be subject to other considerations relating to risk management. Specific matters may need to be taken into account if any additional scrutiny activity is deemed appropriate.

5. Conclusions

- 5.1. The briefing paper appended to this report presents information from the Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust on proposals to explore and test the market for opportunities to grow and sustain the Leeds Fertility IVF service in light of a changing competitive market in Leeds. Representatives from the Trust have also been invited to today's meeting to present and discuss this matter further with Board Members.

6. Recommendations

- 6.1 The Scrutiny Board (Adults, Health and Active Lifestyles) is asked to note the content of this report and the attached briefing paper and agree any specific scrutiny actions or future activity.

7. Background documents¹

- 7.1. None.

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.