



Report of the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development

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

Date: 14 March 2011

Subject: Proposed Reconfiguration of Children's Congenital Heart Services in England – Draft Terms of Reference

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 purpose of this report is to present Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Yorkshire and the Humber) with draft Terms of Reference for amendment and/or agreement, in relation to the national consultation around the proposed reconfiguration of Children's Congenital Heart Services in England.

2.0 Background

2.1 The Health and Social Care Act (2001), subsequently reinforced and amended by the NHS Act (2006) and the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act (2007), places a duty on local NHS bodies to make arrangements to involve and consult patients and the public in:

- Planning service provision;
- The development of proposals for changes; and,
- Decisions about changes to the operation of services.

2.2 The requirement to consult on changes and/or developments of NHS services also includes a duty to consult with relevant Health Overview and Scrutiny Committees where the NHS Body has under consideration any proposal for a substantial development or variation in the provision of health services within a specific local authority area.

2.3 In circumstances where such proposals are likely to affect a population larger than that covered by a single Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, the Secretary of State (for Health) issued a Direction requiring appropriate scrutiny committees to convene a joint HOSC. In this regard, local authorities across Yorkshire and the

Humber have developed and agreed a protocol as a guide and reference point for such occasions.

Review of Children's Congenital Heart Services in England

2.4 In 2008, in response to concerns raised by clinicians and parent groups, 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

2.5 The *Safe and Sustainable* review team (at NHS Specialised Services) has managed the review process on behalf of the ten Specialised Commissioning Groups in England, and their constituent local Primary Care Trusts.

2.6 In February 2011, having analysed the available information, the Joint Committee of Primary Care Trusts – a committee comprising local commissioners representing each region of England – selected four potential options to form the basis of public consultation.

3.0 Draft Terms of Reference

3.1 The draft Terms of Reference in relation to the proposed reconfiguration of Children's Congenital Heart Services in England, and the selected options that form the basis of the national consultation are presented at Appendix 1.

3.2 In line with the protocol for Yorkshire and the Humber Councils – Joint Health Overview And Scrutiny Committee, the draft Terms of Reference are presented to this first meeting of the Joint HOSC (Yorkshire and the Humber) for amendment and/or agreement.

4.0 Recommendations

4.1 Members of the Joint HOSC (Yorkshire and the Humber) are asked to:

4.1.1 Consider the details presented in this report; and,

4.1.2 Amend and/or agree the draft terms of reference attached at Appendix 1, as appropriate.

5.0 Background Documents

- Health and Social Care Act (2012) – Directions to Local Authorities (Overview and Scrutiny Committees, Health Scrutiny Functions)
- Protocol for Yorkshire and the Humber Councils – Joint Health Overview And Scrutiny Committee
- Leeds City Council's Constitution – Overview and Scrutiny Procedural Rules