



Report of the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development

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

Date: 14 March 2011

Subject: Reconfiguration of Children's Congenital Heart Services in England – Rationale and Options for consultation

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 details of the identified options for consultation for the Reconfiguration of Children's Congenital Heart Services in England.

2.0 Background

2.1 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

2.2 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.

3.0 Outcome of the review

3.1 At the Joint Committee of Primary Care Trusts (JCPCT) meeting held on 16 February 2011, the review team reported an overwhelming feeling that the time for change is long overdue. At that meeting the JCPCT was presented with the following recommendations:

- 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

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

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

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

3.2 Having analysed the available information, the JCPCT agreed that the above options should form the basis of public consultation – commencing on 28 February 2011 and running until 1 July 2011.

3.3 The consultation documents is attached at Appendix 1. In addition, a briefing note provided by NHS Specialised Services is attached at Appendix 2.

3.4 The Director of Specialised Commissioning Group (SCG) – Yorkshire and the Humber, will attend the meeting to provide an overview of the consultation options and address any questions identified by members of the Joint HOSC.

4.0 Recommendations

4.1 Members of the Joint HOSC (Yorkshire and the Humber) are asked to consider the details presented in this report and its associated appendices and identify any specific matters that warrant further scrutiny.

5.0 Background Documents

- Children's Heart Surgery: The need for Change – April 2010