

Report of the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development

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

Date: 4 October 2011

Subject: Review of Children's Congenital Heart Services in England: Final Report (draft)

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| 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input 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: Not applicable Appendix number: Not applicable | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No |

Summary of main issues

1. The Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC) for Yorkshire and the Humber forms the statutory overview and scrutiny body to consider the future proposals of Children's Congenital Heart Services in England and proposed reconfiguration of designated surgical centres. Such consideration includes the potential impact of proposals on children and families across Yorkshire and the Humber region.
2. Proposals around the future of Children's Congenital Heart Services in England were launched for public consultation on 1 March 2011. As part of this public consultation, Health Overview and Scrutiny Committees have been given until 5 October 2011 to respond to the proposals. The Joint HOSC has considered a wide range of evidence and heard from a number of witnesses during its consideration of the proposed changes.
3. At its meeting on 29 September 2011, the Joint HOSC consider an outline draft report and identified a number amendments and additional items for inclusion. An amended draft report will be presented at the meeting. This will set out the Joint HOSC's proposed response to review of Children's Congenital Heart Services in England and the associated reconfiguration of designated surgical centres.

Recommendations

4. Members will be asked to consider and amend / agree the draft final report, as appropriate, for submission to the Joint Committee of Primary Care Trusts (JCPCT) by 5 October 2011.

1.0 Purpose of this report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to present a draft final report which sets out the Joint HOSC's response to proposed changes to Children's Congenital Heart Services in England and the reconfiguration of designated surgical centres.

2.0 Background information

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.

2.4 At its initial meeting on 14 March 2011, the Joint HOSC agreed its terms of reference, which were subsequently revised at its meeting on 2 September 2011.. Since March 2011.

3.0 Main issues

3.1 Proposals around the future of Children's Congenital Heart Services in England were launched for public consultation on 1 March 2011. As part of this public consultation, Health Overview and Scrutiny Committees have been given until 5 October 2011 to respond to the proposals. The Joint HOSC has considered a wide range of evidence and heard from a number of witnesses during its consideration of the proposed changes.

3.2 At its meeting on 29 September 2011, the Joint HOSC consider an outline draft report and identified a number amendments and additional items for inclusion. As such, an amended draft report will be presented at the meeting, for consideration as the Joint HOSC's final response to review of Children's Congenital Heart Services in England and the associated reconfiguration of designated surgical centres.

4.0 Corporate Considerations

4.1 Consultation and Engagement

4.1.1 There are no specific considerations relevant to this report.

4.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration

4.2.1 When considering the potential impact of the proposed changes, the Joint HOSC has considered a regional Health Impact Assessment (HIA) produced by the Yorkshire and Humber Specialised Commissioning Group (SCG) and a nationally commissioned Interim HIA report, produced by Mott McDonald.

4.2.2 Both reports identify potential negative impacts associated with three of the proposed options put forward for consultation. In particular, the HIA interim report produced by Mott McDonald identifies the following as vulnerable groups:

- Children (under 16s)* who are the primary recipient of the services under review and, therefore, most sensitive to service changes;
- People who experience socio-economic deprivation;
- People from Asian ethnic groups, particularly those with an Indian, Pakistani, Bangladeshi and other Indian subcontinent heritage;
- Mothers who smoke during pregnancy; and
- Mothers who are obese during pregnancy;

These are defined as vulnerable groups because they are more likely to need the services under review and, are most likely to experience disproportionate impacts.

4.3 Council Policies and City Priorities

4.3.1 There are no specific considerations relevant to this report.

4.4 Resources and Value for Money

4.4.1 The Joint HOSC has been informed that the proposed model of care for the delivery of children's congenital cardiac services are likely to result in an increased level of expenditure. The Joint HOSC has also been specifically advised of a likely significant increase in costs associated with the transport and retrieval service in Yorkshire and the Humber. Precise details of any such increases in expenditure have not been provided.

4.5 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In

4.5.1 This report does not contain any exempt or confidential information.

4.6 Risk Management

4.6.1 There are no specific considerations relevant to this report.

5.0 Conclusions

5.1 Proposals around the future of Children's Congenital Heart Services in England were launched for public consultation on 1 March 2011 and the Joint HOSC been given until 5 October 2011 to respond.

5.2 The Joint HOSC has considered a wide range of evidence and heard from a number of witnesses during its consideration of the proposed changes. A further draft report will be presented as the Joint HOSC's proposed final to the proposals.

6.0 Recommendations

6.1 Members will be asked to consider and amend / agree the draft final report, as appropriate, for submission to the Joint Committee of Primary Care Trusts (JCPCT) by 5 October 2011.

7.0 Background documents

- A new vision for Children's Congenital Heart Services in England (March 2011)