

SAFE & SUSTAINABLE UPDATE

Officer Contact

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Papers with report

Appendix A – Consultation response from the London Borough of Hillingdon

REASON FOR ITEM

To enable the Committee to ask questions about the proposals to reduce the number of centres in London providing children's cancer services from three to two.

OPTIONS AVAILABLE TO THE COMMITTEE

1. To note and ask questions about the proposals and the presentation.

INFORMATION

1. Children's heart surgery is complex and becoming increasingly specialised. Following long-standing concerns that some congenital heart services for children are too small to be able to deliver a safe and sustainable service, the NHS Safe and Sustainable review team has undertaken a review on behalf of the 10 Specialised Commissioning Groups in relation to children's heart surgery services in England. The purpose of *Safe and Sustainable* is to canvas the opinions of all stakeholders, including professional bodies, clinicians, patients and their families, to weigh the evidence for and against different views of service delivery and to develop proposals that will deliver high quality and sustainable services into the future.
2. The review aims to develop a 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 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
3. Children's heart surgery is an increasingly complex procedure that demands great technical skill and expertise from surgeons and their teams. The review was requested because there

are concerns that some centres are not performing enough surgical procedures to maintain and develop their specialist skills, and because some centres do not have enough surgeons to guarantee a safe 24/7 service around the clock. There are also concerns that the NHS is too reliant on other countries to train the next generation of children's heart surgeons.

4. There are currently around 30 consultant heart surgeons who operate on children spread across 11 surgical centres in England. A likely outcome of the review is recommendations for a reduction in the number of centres in England that provide children's heart surgery, for specialist surgical expertise to be concentrated in fewer, larger centres and for a national model of care that strengthens the delivery of non-interventional assessment and follow-up care in local hospitals. It is proposed that the number of centres across England reduce from 11 to 7 and that, within this, the number of centres in London reduce from 3 (Royal Brompton & Harefield, Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital and The Evelina Children's Hospital - Guy's and St Thomas's) to 2.
5. The *Safe and Sustainable* review 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 that strengthens local cardiology services
 - The assessment of each of the current surgical centres against the standards by an independent expert panel, chaired by Professor Sir Ian Kennedy
 - The consideration of a number of potential configuration options against other criteria including access, travel times and population
 - Recommendations on the future shape of children's heart surgery services were made by a Joint Committee of Primary Care Trusts (JCPCT) on 16 February 2011
6. A four month public consultation on the future of children's congenital heart services was then undertaken and closed on 1 July 2011 (Hillingdon's response to the consultation can be found at Appendix A). The outcome of the consultation will now be considered by the JCPCT.
7. Although the public consultation on the future of children's heart services has now closed, the work of the *Safe and Sustainable* review is still ongoing. An independent third party will collect all consultation responses and a comprehensive analysis will be published in a final report which will be submitted to the decision-makers, the JCPCT. The JCPCT will then carefully consider all evidence submitted to it as part of the review to help it evaluate the options and make a final decision on the best configuration for children's congenital heart services in the future.
8. As well as carefully considering the responses to the consultation, the JCPCT will look in detail at the result of tests being carried out to analyse the viability of each option. Over the coming months a number of groups will report in more detail on key aspects of the proposed changes so that the JCPCT is provided with as much information as possible to inform their decision-making. For example, the JCPCT will closely consider the findings of the feedback from focus groups that have taken place across the country, the findings of Health Impact Assessments, the outcome of work being done to test patient flows and the capacity planning information that all Trusts involved in the review have been asked to submit.

9. The JCPCT is expected to announce its final decision by the end of 2011. Any changes to the provision of children's congenital heart services are expected to be implemented from 2013. A detailed implementation plan will be developed once a decision has been made.

SUGGESTED COMMITTEE ACTIVITY

1. Members note the report and presentation.
2. Members to ask questions of the witnesses and seek clarification, as appropriate.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

http://www.specialisedservices.nhs.uk/safe_sustainable/review-next-steps

http://www.specialisedservices.nhs.uk/safe_sustainable/childrens-congenital-cardiac-services

<http://www.rbht.nhs.uk/about/safe-and-sustainable/formal-response/>

APPENDIX A

EXTERNAL SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

2011/12 WORK PROGRAMME

NB – all meetings start at 6pm in the Civic Centre unless otherwise indicated.

Shading indicates completed meetings

Meeting Date	Agenda Item
8 June 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Briefing Paper on Organisations Regularly Called to Attend External Services Scrutiny CommitteeUpdate on Recommendations of Previous Major Scrutiny Reviews
20 July 2011	LiNK To receive a report on the progress of LiNK in the Borough since the last update received by the Committee in June 2010.
21 September 2011	Safer Transport To scrutinise the issue of safety with regards to transport in the Borough (Safer Neighbourhoods Team, Metropolitan Police Service and British Transport).
26 October 2011	NHS & GPs Performance updates, updates on significant issues and review of effectiveness of provider services: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Hillingdon Primary Care Trust (PCT)The Hillingdon Hospital NHS Foundation TrustRoyal Brompton & Harefield NHS Foundation TrustCentral & North West London NHS Foundation TrustLondon Ambulance ServiceGPsHillingdon LiNK
23 November 2011	
11 January 2012	
22 February 2012	Crime & Disorder <ul style="list-style-type: none">Metropolitan Police ServiceMetropolitan Police AuthoritySafer Neighbourhoods TeamHillingdon Primary Care Trust (PCT)

PART 1 – MEMBERS, PUBLIC AND PRESS

Meeting Date	Agenda Item
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • London Fire Brigade • Probation Service • British Transport Police • Safer Transport Team
28 March 2012 – 5pm	<p>Community Cohesion Review</p> <p>The review the achievements of the following organisations since March 2011 with regards to Community Cohesion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Metropolitan Police Service • London Fire Brigade • University of Brunel • Union of Brunel Students • Hillingdon Primary Care Trust (PCT) • Strong & Active Communities • Hillingdon Inter Faith Network • Hillingdon Association of Voluntary Services
25 April 2012	<p>Quality Accounts & CQC Evidence Gathering</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hillingdon Primary Care Trust (PCT) • The Hillingdon Hospital NHS Foundation Trust • Royal Brompton & Harefield NHS Foundation Trust • Central & North West London NHS Foundation Trust • London Ambulance Service • Care Quality Commission (CQC) • Hillingdon LINK

Themes	Future Work to be Undertaken

PART 1 – MEMBERS, PUBLIC AND PRESS

Appendix B

PART 1 – MEMBERS, PUBLIC AND PRESS