

## **Southampton, Hampshire, Isle of Wight and Portsmouth PCT Cluster Review of vascular Surgery - December 2011**

### **1 Background**

Since the last update to the HOSP in November there have been a number of important developments in the progress of our proposals for vascular surgery. The purpose of this paper is to bring the HOSP up to date, prior to our public consultation on vascular services which will be launched in January 2012.

### **2. Role of the SHIP PCT Cluster**

The responsibility for commissioning this service on behalf of local people sits firmly with the SHIP PCT Cluster. We must therefore assure ourselves that all proposals are clinically safe and offer the best outcomes and quality of service for local people. We will only commission a service if it can clearly demonstrate the highest possible quality for local people.

### **3. Feedback from the engagement phase**

An engagement period on proposals for major trauma, stroke and vascular surgery across the NHS South Central region was held between 23 August and 30 September. Since the end of the engagement phase the PCT Cluster has been in regular communication with commissioners in NHS Sussex, clinicians and chief executives of Trusts, local CCGs, LINKs and HOSC/Ps.

A full report on the feedback from the engagement was considered at a meeting of the SHIP PCT Cluster Board on November 1 and has been made available to the public. The report is attached as an appendix to this paper.

One clear theme has been concerns about the implications for other services (such as renal and cancer) at Queen Alexandra Hospital, Portsmouth if the original option to provide emergency and elective complex inpatient vascular surgery from Southampton General Hospital were to go ahead.

There has also been interest in exploring the option for surgeons at Queen Alexandra Hospital to work with surgeons at St Richards Hospital, Chichester to provide a service to people living in the Portsmouth, South East Hampshire and Chichester areas.

### **4. Developing options for vascular surgery**

In light of the engagement feedback a great deal of hard work has taken place behind the scenes between clinicians to develop these discussions into formal proposals. In September/October three options emerged out of these discussions:

- 1) The original proposal for Southampton to become a vascular centre. Under this proposal all emergency and elective, complex inpatient vascular surgery would be performed at Southampton General Hospital.
- 2) An improved 'network' option for Southampton General and the Queen Alexandra to share vascular services across both hospital sites. This allows a vascular surgeon to remain on site seven days a week at the QA to provide cover for renal and cancer services.
- 3) An option for the Queen Alexandra Hospital and St Richard's Hospital, Chichester to integrate vascular surgery provision across West Portsmouth, SE Hampshire and West Sussex.

## 5. Expert panel

An expert panel was held on Thursday 20 October, to consider options 2 and 3 above to ensure that they meet the national specification. Option 1 has already been considered in detail by an expert panel and was not re-examined. A summary of the panel's views on each option is below:

### 1. Portsmouth/St Richards proposal

Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust presented a proposal for the development of a vascular service across the St Richards and Queen Alexandra Hospital sites. The panel felt that the proposal would be clinically viable for the present time. However they agreed that it would not meet the new specification of the Vascular Society for 2011 and was not the ideal solution for patients in the long term. It was clear to the panel that the impact of the proposal on Sussex Vascular Services had yet to be tested and that clinicians and management from neither St Richards Hospital or Western Sussex Hospitals NHS Trust had been involved in the development of the proposal. The panel's main concerns were the lack of involvement from clinicians and management on key issues such as staffing, and the ability to satisfy the minimum requirements for interventional radiology. As a result it was felt the proposal could not be delivered and as such was aspirational. Subsequently NHS Sussex and Western Sussex Hospitals NHS Trust have confirmed that they do not support this proposal.

### 2. Southampton/Portsmouth proposal

University Hospital Southampton NHS Foundation Trust presented some new developments to their original proposal which have come about as a result of further discussion between surgeons and interventional radiologists across the two sites. Their proposal would still mean that a network would be formed with clinicians across Southampton and Portsmouth working together and the most serious emergency vascular surgery cases being carried out at Southampton. However, further provision has been made to ensure there is vascular support in Portsmouth to cover outpatient clinics and services such as cancer and renal.

The panel felt that this option of a single vascular service offered from the two hospital sites would provide the best chance for long term sustainable vascular services for local

people. The panel concluded that it was clear that work had taken place to develop the proposal since the expert panel considered the initial proposal in December 2010. In particular it was clear that the interdependencies with cancer and renal services at Queen Alexandra Hospital had been given greater consideration. However the panel underlined the need for more constructive dialogue between the clinical teams to implement the service, putting the benefit of patients at the heart of their discussions.

For your information the minutes of the expert panel meeting are attached as an appendix to this paper.

## **6. The 'stand alone' option**

In further discussion with Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust and Portsmouth City Council about developing vascular proposals for consultation the Trust said that it believed it could make the necessary changes to meet the standards laid down within the Service Specification in its own right, rather than in a network model with University Hospital Southampton NHS Foundation Trust or with St Richard's Hospital.

In considering this development we need to take into account the fact that delivering vascular services will become much more challenging for providers in future. Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust would have to recruit a number of additional vascular consultant surgeons, a number of additional interventional radiologists, and invest in a number of other areas to ensure that the Service Specification was met, and to ensure that patients could achieve significantly better outcomes than at present.

We received a detailed proposal from Portsmouth Hospital Trust on November 23 and are currently assessing its viability. Part of our assessment of the proposal involves detailed discussions with GPs in the Chichester area and in Portsmouth and South East Hampshire to test their views on this proposal. These discussions are taking place over the next week couple of weeks.

Once we have a clear view from local GPs and we have assessed the clinical viability of the Portsmouth Hospitals proposal we will take a decision about which options we will be able to present as part of the forthcoming consultation.

## **7. Working with NHS Sussex**

During the engagement period, some concerns were raised about planning for vascular surgical services across Strategic Health Authority boundaries. NHS Sussex are also in the process of undertaking a review of vascular services and in the last few months we have been working closely with them to make sure that any proposals developed for the SHIP area are compatible with Sussex's plans. This has included seeking clarification from NHS Sussex about their views on the Portsmouth/Chichester option. NHS Sussex

are clear that this option was not developed in collaboration with them and suggests the use of clinicians who will actually be working at Brighton. For these reasons NHS Sussex has confirmed the Portsmouth/Chichester option does not have their support.

At its meeting on November 24, the West Sussex Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee decided that they do not feel a consultation is required on the proposals in Sussex, although they do wish to see an engagement phase involving patients, the public and Clinical Commissioning Groups.

We have therefore agreed with NHS Sussex that we will align engagement in Sussex with consultation across SHIP. This will make it easier for partners and the public to understand the extent and context of these changes, whilst at the same time demonstrating that the needs of the whole population are being fully taken into account.

## **7. Public consultation**

It has always been our stated intention to conduct a formal public consultation on the issue of vascular surgery. Once we have assessed the viability of the Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust proposal we will take a decision about which options we will be able to present as part of the forthcoming consultation. We will be completely transparent about any decision about the viability of options and will ensure that the consultation document includes information on the financial, workforce and clinical implications of each option.

We had intended to begin consultation in December but informal feedback from stakeholders has suggested that starting consultation in January would be preferable. We therefore expect a 12 week public consultation on vascular services in SHIP to begin in January and NHS Sussex will engage with Sussex communities at the same time. We will work closely with NHS Sussex to ensure that all documentation relating to proposals in the Chichester area will be aligned and any events are conducted jointly.

The HOSP are asked to note this update.