

Notes re: Cardiac Paediatric Services.

Information and proposed timeline – JHOSC March 2010 minutes extract.

Representatives of the NHS Specialist Commissioning Group gave a presentation on the proposals for Children's Cardiac Surgery Services in England. The principles being that the NHS must provide only the very highest standard of care for children and their families regardless of where they live or which hospital provides their care. Centres should care that was based around the needs of the child and the family which took account of the transition to adult services. All relevant treatment, other than surgery, should be provided as locally as possible to the family and clinical standards should be agreed and met by all centres. Details were given of the current heart surgery centres in England and the planned approach for change. Currently some centres could not provide safe 24 hour care. Enough surgeons were needed in each centre to meet day to day needs eg. Operating in theatre, on call for emergencies, ward rounds and outpatient clinics. It was necessary for surgeons to be learning from each other and to be able to work in centres to give them exposure to a large range of procedures. It was proposed that there should be four consultant paediatric surgeons in each centre with enough doctors and nurses to provide 24 hour care and a minimum of 400 paediatric procedures each year. The network model of care would be for tertiary paediatric centres, paediatric cardiology centres and paediatric cardiology periphery services. The benefits for children and families would be:

- Better access to 24 hour care
- Better access to surgical centres with expertise in complex procedures
- Better clinical outcomes (mortality and morbidity)
- An NHS workforce that is highly trained and expert
- Surgeons will mentor and learn from each other
- An effective network that improved planning, delivery and communication
- Strengthened Specialist Children's Liaison Teams
- A national network of surgical centres collaborating in the interests of patients.

The key milestones were that centres would submit initial proposals in March/April 2010; Evaluation of centres against designated criteria would take place in May/June 2010; Recommendations published and formal public consultation September – December 2010 and the post-consultation and designation decision January 2011. Details were given of the Expert Review Panel, the Public Consultation Process and Stakeholders. The centre for Public Scrutiny would be asking Health Overview and Scrutiny Committees with an interest to establish a Joint Statutory Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

RESOLVED that following the formal consultation an update on the proposals for Children's Cardiac Surgery be presented to the Joint Committee.

Extract from NHS Hampshire's Chief Executive's Paper presented to the Commissioning Board on 22 July 2010.

PAEDIATRIC CARDIAC SERVICES

5.1

In September 2010 the *Safe and Sustainable* review will make recommendations for a reduced number of children's heart surgery centres in England. There are currently 11 centres in England, one of which is at Southampton General hospital. The review is led by the National Specialised Commissioning Team on behalf of the 10 Specialised Commissioning Groups.

5.2

All existing centres have been assessed in May and June 2010 against a quality framework for designation as specialist providers of children's heart surgery services in the future are likely to state that each centre must:

- Provide a 24/7 service
- Be staffed by a minimum of 4 consultant paediatric cardiac surgeons
- Perform a minimum of 400 paediatric surgical procedures each year, and ideally a minimum of 500 paediatric surgical procedures each year

5.3

Over 100 local parents and patients of the cardiac unit at SGH attended an engagement event on 21 June 2010 at Southampton Football Club. There was tremendous support for the Southampton unit and the national team will be recording all of this feedback as they draw up options which will be subject to formal consultation between October 2010 and January 2011.

5.4

No key decisions have been made as yet, however it is likely that the *Safe and Sustainable* review will recommend a reduction in the number of centres that provide children's heart surgery services. Although this will mean that some children and their families will have to travel a longer distance for surgery, they will not have to do this for other aspects of care (such as assessment, diagnostic tests, follow-up and ongoing management). The review will recommend a new 'network model' of care that facilitates the delivery of all non-surgical and non-interventional paediatric cardiology care as locally as possible.

5.5

The Children's Heart Federation reports that the majority of parents are supportive of travelling further to specialist centres of expertise that deliver better care. However, the concerns of parents who live very close to one of the existing centres will be heard and addressed during the review.