

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT

1.	Meeting:	Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel
2.	Date:	Tuesday 26 April 2011
3.	Title:	Update: specialist children's heart surgery; consultation
4.	Directorate:	Chief Executive's All wards

5. Summary

Safe and Sustainable – the NHS review into the future of children's congenital heart services in England has made recommendations to change the current service model. Health Overview and Scrutiny Committees are being consulted as part of the statutory consultation process. This report updates Members of developments.

6. Recommendations

That Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel

- a. **Notes the report;**
- b. **Receives further updates of progress.**

7. Proposals and Details

The proposals set out in Safe and Sustainable - A New Vision for Children's Congenital Heart Services in England consultation document, are the outcome of a national review process. The consultation runs until July 1st 2011.

In summary, it is proposed that the reconfigured 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. However, in doing this there will be 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.

Safe and Sustainable is consulting on the following areas:

- Standards of care: proposed national quality standards of care to be applied consistently across the country

- Congenital heart networks: development of networks to coordinate care and ensure more local provision (e.g. assessment, ongoing care)
- The options: the number and location of hospitals that provide children heart surgical services in the future
- Better Monitoring: improvements for analysis and reporting of mortality and morbidity data

The options for the number and location of hospitals that provide children’s heart surgical services in the future are:

<p>Option A: Seven surgical centres at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 	<p>Option B: Seven surgical centres at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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
<p>Option C: Six surgical centres at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Freeman Hospital, Newcastle • Alder Hey Children’s Hospital, Liverpool • Birmingham Children’s Hospital • Bristol Royal Hospital for Children • 2 centres in London¹ 	<p>Option D: Six surgical centres at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leeds General Infirmary • Alder Hey Children’s Hospital, Liverpool • Birmingham Children’s Hospital • Bristol Royal Hospital for Children • 2 centres in London¹

Currently Rotherham children with serious congenital heart problems are referred to Leeds Teaching Hospital Trust for treatment, based at Leeds General Infirmary. LTHT also supports outreach clinics at Rotherham Foundation Trust (RFT). Colleagues from RFT estimate that approximately 300 children use the clinic in Rotherham per year.

Leeds only features in 1 of the four options for service configuration. If closed, it is proposed that Rotherham children and families will receive services from one of the following: Newcastle, Birmingham or Leicester. Alternative proposals for configuration of services can be put forward.

7.1 Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee Involvement

Health Overview and Scrutiny Committees² are being consulted as part of the statutory consultation process and because it affects more than one Local Authority area, this is being coordinated in Yorkshire and Humber through a Joint Committee (chaired by a Member from Leeds City Council). There has been two meetings of the Joint Committee to date (minutes and papers are available on-

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

² Health scrutiny responsibilities are currently delegated to Children and Young People’s Scrutiny Panel if they relate to children’s health matters

line). Further meetings are planned with various representatives from health bodies and patients/parents groups from across the region to gather evidence to inform the Committee's formal response to the consultation.

There is one member from Rotherham Council (Cllr Shaukat Ali) who is part of this joint committee. Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel have formed a small member working group consisting of Cllrs Ali, Falvey and Sims who will inform Rotherham's input to the process.

Given the complexity and sensitivity of the issue, the working group held an initial meeting with colleagues from RFT and NHS Rotherham to discuss how the proposals may impact upon local services. A further meeting will be held with local parents to gauge their views on the different options and how this would affect the standard of care received by their vulnerable children.

In particular, questions have been raised about the following:–

- access to facilities for Rotherham children and families, particularly in emergency or acute situations
- sustainability of local clinics
- retention and future development of specialist skills (in Rotherham and in Leeds)
- sustainability of intensive care facility at Leeds Teaching Hospital Trust should it no longer be a specialist facility

Considerable media interest has been generated both locally and nationally. In addition, a regional charity, the Children's Heart Surgery Fund is holding a number of meetings throughout the Yorkshire and Humber region, including Rotherham.

8. Finance

There are no financial implications directly related to this report.

9. Background Papers and Consultation

Safe and Sustainable - A New Vision for Children's Congenital Heart Services in England: Consultation Document

<http://www.specialisedservices.nhs.uk/document/safe-sustainable-a-new-vision-children-s-congenital-heart-services-in-england-consultation-document>

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

14th March, 2011:

<http://democracy.leeds.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?MId=5146&x=1>

29th March, 2011:

<http://democracy.leeds.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=793&MId=5149&Ver=4>

Contact Name:

Caroline Webb, Senior Scrutiny Adviser, 01709 (8)22765

caroline.webb@rotherham.gov.uk