

## South of Tyne Health Care Group - Update

### Report of the Head of Scrutiny and Area Arrangements

#### 1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To provide further information to Members from both Sunderland and South Tyneside scrutiny functions on City Hospitals Sunderland NHS Foundation Trust and South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust's proposed implementation of a health alliance to reconfigure services across South of Tyne.

#### 2. Background

- 2.1 City Hospitals Sunderland NHS Foundation Trust and South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust, who between them serve a population of 430,000 people across a large geographical area south of Tyne & Wear have for many years collaborated to jointly provide some clinical services, (stroke and paediatrics for example), in a way in which the local communities get the best and safest healthcare using the resources and specialist skills available. Both organisations now believe that to protect the future sustainability of healthcare across both communities, requires more significant transformation leading to greater integration of services, and that this needs to be delivered at speed and scale.
- 2.2 Both Trusts recognise the importance and value of having a local hospital providing a range of emergency and planned services, but they equally recognise the urgent need to rebalance services across South of Tyne and Wear as it is no longer safe or sustainable for either organisation to duplicate the provision of services in each location. As a result, both Trusts have agreed to form and implement a health alliance, working together as a "South of Tyne Healthcare Group", and embark on an ambitious programme of reconfiguring services across South of Tyne in a way that delivers the best patient outcomes.

#### 3. Current Position

- 3.1 City Hospitals Sunderland FT has for some time been expanding to provide a range of specialist services both locally and regionally. Increasingly its focus will be on leading and providing emergency surgical and complex planned acute services across South of Tyne. While South Tyneside FT has moved away from providing complex acute services and in the future will lead on out of hospital rehabilitation, and diagnostic and screening services. South Tyneside District Hospital will continue to provide a broad range of emergency and planned hospital services. This Trust will also be the lead provider of community services working closely with respective local authorities and primary care colleagues across the geographical area.
- 3.2 In the first twelve months, South of Tyne Healthcare Group will work together using the joint expertise available to them to transform stroke services, trauma services, emergency surgical services and maternity services (consistent with any national reviews). A single Sustainable and Transformation Plan will be jointly developed by both Trusts and the two local Clinical Commissioning Groups. Both Trusts will

continue to function as statutory NHS Foundation Trusts, accountable to their local communities through their Governors. Sitting aside the two FTs will be a South of Tyne Healthcare Group Board and Executive Team comprising, Non-Executives, Executives and leading clinicians from both Trusts who will govern the transformation and partnership working.

3.3 The proposals were announced on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2016 and both Sunderland and South Tyneside Overview and Scrutiny functions have requested further information around the proposals and implementation of the trusts plans.

3.4 The Chief Executives Ken Bremner (City Hospitals Sunderland NHS FT) and Steve Williamson (South Tyneside NHS FT) along with Chairmen John Anderson (City Hospitals Sunderland NHS FT) and Neil Mundy (South Tyneside NHS FT) have been invited to attend this meeting and will provide a presentation to all Members present around these proposals.

#### **4. Conclusion**

4.1 The report and accompanying presentation are provided to the Scrutiny Committee for information and its comments.

#### **5. Recommendation**

5.1 The Scrutiny Committee is invited to note and provide comments to the respective NHS Foundation Trusts on the proposals outlined.

#### **6. Background Papers**

6.1 NHS Foundation Trusts – Press Release.

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