

**REVIEW OF ACUTE SPECIAL PAEDIATRIC SERVICE**

**REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

**1. Purpose of the Report**

- 1.1 The report and presentation will provide Members with an overview of a programme of reform work related to the pathway for acutely sick and injured children. The related Public Consultation linked to this work began on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2011, inviting health professionals, patients and the general public to give their views on the future of services for acutely sick and injured children across Gateshead, Sunderland and South Tyneside.

**2. Background**

- 2.1 The consultation, being held by NHS South of Tyne and Wear, is the result of three years work looking at how services can be improved. The changing pattern of childhood illness means that current provision no longer meets the needs of children or their families.

Children and young people suffer from more chronic and complex long-term illness now than in the past, for example, asthma and diabetes. This means they need more community-based treatment, closer to home resulting in fewer hospital admissions and overnight stays.

A review of the pathway for sick and injured children began in 2008. Although commissioner-led, this review has been clinically driven and involved doctors and nurses from all major providers of the existing pathway.

In June 2011 South of Tyne and Wear PCTs Joint Statutory Board received a summary of the service review process and option appraisal. The Board approved progression to public consultation pending a review from the National Clinical Advisory Team (NCAT) who are charged with reviewing the clinical component of service reconfigurations.

The option appraisal paper was also received by the three acute trusts in South of Tyne and Wear, City Hospitals Sunderland Foundation Trust, Gateshead Health Foundation Trust and South Tyneside Foundation Trust in September 2011. All Boards supported the proposals described to enhance community services and establish short stay services in all localities that can meet the needs of the majority of children and young people alongside the effective use of inpatient services for those children that require an extended stay in

hospital. The purpose of the proposals is to realign existing resources to ensure that they better meet the needs of children today. The realignment increases resources in the areas of paediatric assessment and community support and makes more effective use of inpatient resources for the small numbers of children that require this type of care.

Experts from the National Clinical Advisory Team completed a review of the proposals on 7th November 2011 and their report indicates that the proposals would provide high quality safe services for children and are possible to implement.

### **3. Current position**

3.1 The consultation began on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2011 at the NHS South of Tyne and Wear PCT Cluster Board meeting and finishes on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2012. It is of the highest importance that we reach as many children, young people and parents as possible to discuss our plans and understand their views and any concerns; particularly those that use acute services regularly. A broad range of stakeholders have been identified through the Children's Acute Steering Group, PCT engagement managers, in discussion with local authority colleagues and through the PCT Local Engagement Boards. We would welcome advice from OSC members on how to ensure that appropriate groups are reached during the consultation.

The different options and the one option preferred by the PCTs and local foundation trusts are described in the attached consultation document. The preferred option includes:

- 24-hour assessment units in local hospitals in Gateshead, Sunderland and South Tyneside
- the work of the children's community nursing team would be extended to offer support to sick children in their own home
- Inpatient services, for children and young people who require a period in hospital, would be provided by Sunderland Royal Hospital or the Great North Children's Hospital at the Royal Victoria Infirmary (RVI).

Consultation information has been sent to all stakeholders with an invitation to log any comments or concerns on our website or via the consultation telephone line. A minimum of two public meetings are being held in each locality. The following Public Meetings have been arranged:

#### **Sunderland**

- **17<sup>th</sup> January** from 2pm, Washington Leisure Centre, The Galleries, Washington Town Centre, Washington, NE38 7SS
- **23<sup>rd</sup> February** from 6pm, Training & Education Centre, Sunderland Royal Hospital, Kayll Road, Sunderland, SR4 7TP

## **Gateshead**

- 1<sup>st</sup> February from 2pm, Blaydon Rugby Club, Crow Trees, Hexham Road, Swalwell, NE16 3BN
- 16<sup>th</sup> February from 6pm, Caedmon Room, Gateshead Library, Prince Consort Road, Gateshead, NE8 4LN

## **South Tyneside**

- 23<sup>rd</sup> January from 2pm, Living Waters Church, St Jude's Terrace, South Shields, South Tyneside, NE33 5PB
- 6<sup>th</sup> March from 6pm, Living Waters Church, St Jude's Terrace, South Shields, South Tyneside, NE33 5PB

In addition we are attending Overview and Scrutiny Committee meetings in each locality as well as Children's Trusts and PCT Local Engagement Boards. A programme of engagement work has been developed including meetings with school councils, children's centres and relevant community groups.

Feedback received during the consultation will be reviewed and summarised by an independent consultant. Progress will be reported to the March 2012 PCT Cluster Board meeting with a recommendation for the future to the subsequent meeting.

A document "**Getting better together - a consultation on acute health services for children and young people**" (**Appendix 1**) has been developed for use within the public consultation. The document outlines the pathway review process, options and the commissioners preferred option. A summary consultation document is also available (Appendix 2).

## **4. Conclusion**

- 4.1 The report and presentation will provide members with an outline of the proposals of the consultation and seek the committee's views on their preferred option.

## **5 Recommendation**

- 5.1 That Members consider and comment on the report and presentation.

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