

**JOINT HEALTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 16.06.2011**

**PAEDIATRIC CARDIAC SURGERY SERVICES REVIEW**

**REPORT OF SCRUTINY OFFICER**

**1.0 PURPOSE**

- 1.1 To inform Members about the national consultation on Paediatric Cardiac Surgery Services to enable them to decide whether this should be included in the Work Programme with a view to responding to the consultation.

**2.0 RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 To agree whether the paediatric cardiac surgery services review should be included in the work programme of the JHOSC, or what further information the Committee would like to help them decide.

**3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 3.1 Safe and Sustainable is consulting on proposed changes to paediatric cardiac surgery services in England. The proposal is to reduce children's heart surgery centres from 11 to 6 or 7. The rationale is that clinical expertise is spread too thinly over 11 sites, that only the larger centres can achieve excellence and there is a risk that some children's heart services may become neither safe nor sustainable in the future.
- 3.2 There are four options being consulted on: two for 6 centres outside London and two for 7 centres outside London. All options include 2 centres in London. The consultation document can be accessed at [http://www.specialisedservices.nhs.uk/safe\\_sustainable/public-consultation-2011](http://www.specialisedservices.nhs.uk/safe_sustainable/public-consultation-2011) which includes a summary of the proposals.
- 3.3 Telford & Wrekin PCT has confirmed that most children are sent to Birmingham Children's Hospital or Alder Hey, with some being seen at Great Ormond Street. Information about the numbers of children affected has been requested.
- 3.4 All options under consultation include keeping Birmingham Children's Hospital, Alder Hey and Great Ormond Street so it is likely that these centres will be retained. However, each option proposes closing Leicester hospital which would place additional pressure on Birmingham

Children's Hospital and members may wish to consider whether this would have an impact on children in the county.

- 3.5 No decisions will be made about the future of any of the centres until after the consultation.

#### 4.0 THE CONSULTATION PROCESS

- 4.1 There is four month public consultation period ending on 1<sup>st</sup> July.
- 4.2 *Safe and Sustainable* will report the key findings of the health impact assessment during the consultation to OSCs in August 2011 to inform their responses to the consultation.
- 4.3 An independent report on the outcome of the consultation will also be shared with OSCs in August 2011.
- 4.4 The OSCs will then have until **5<sup>th</sup> October** to make submissions.
- 4.5 A decision on the proposals is expected in November 2011 and it will be made by the Joint Committee of Primary Care Trusts (JCPCT) on behalf of local commissioners. Once the JCPCT makes a decision on the future configuration of children's congenital heart services in England, *Safe and Sustainable* will share it with the overview and scrutiny committees. This is expected to take place in November 2011.
- 4.6 The review will be discussed at the next Regional Health Scrutiny Chairs' meeting in Sandwell on 29<sup>th</sup> June when the group will discuss:
- (a) whether individual HOSCs consider the issue to be a substantial variation in service delivery
  - (b) whether any joint committees or a regional committee needs to be established to respond to the consultation.

Report prepared by Stephanie Jones, Scrutiny Officer 01952 383114