

## NHS ENGLAND – BOARD PAPER

**Title:**

Specialised Services Commissioning Committee (SSCC) Report

**Lead Director:**

Noel Gordon – Non-Executive Director and Chair of the SSCC

**Purpose of Paper:**

To update the Board on SSCC business.

**The Board is invited to:**

- (i) Note the work and key decisions of the SSCC;
- (ii) Take a verbal update on any additional issues and decisions taken by the SSCC on 8 November 2016.

## Specialised Services Commissioning Committee Report

**Report to the Board from:** Specialised Services Commissioning Committee  
**Committee Chair:** Noel Gordon  
**Date of the committee meeting:** 8 November 2016

### Committee meetings

1. A Committee meeting was held on 8 November 2016.

### Strategy and Reform

2. Specialised Commissioning is now implementing the Strategic Framework published in May 2016 and developed further since. This focuses on three broad areas:
  - Delivering place and population based care: working with Sustainability and Transformation Plan (STP) footprints and CCGs (jointly with NHS Clinical Commissioners through collaborative commissioning) to enable more patient centred care;
  - Providing national level support: National Clinical Leadership, business information, mainstreaming treatments and proactive management of research and innovation;
  - Ensuring financial sustainability and value for money.
3. A number of practical tools are being developed to enable greater leadership from CCGs and STP areas. This will include financial arrangements and the legal framework, but also a consistent approach to public and patient engagement. These tools will be tested with regional teams and with local commissioners.
4. In line with the planning guidance, the current contracting round for specialised services is for two years, providing both the opportunity for greater certainty and stability for providers, as well as the opportunity to drive improved value and quality of care. The Board will wish to note that this contracting round has involved close working between the national, regional and local hub teams to deliver the aims of our strategic framework and 'lock down' contracts in advance of April 2017. There was also a need to comply with European procurement legislation through this process for all specialised services.
5. A rolling programme of national service reviews continues, aimed at firstly identifying the opportunities to transform the way that specialised services are provided and then secondly implementing a change-plan, with our partners, that realises opportunities to: (i) improve population health; (ii) improve the quality of services; and (iii) improve value for money. Implementation of change plans produced by service reviews will align with the commissioning cycle.
6. In September 2016, the Specialised Commissioning Oversight Group (SCOG) approved new Terms of Reference for the Patient and Public Voice Advisory Group (PPVAG). These ensure the remit of the PPVAG is focused on providing assurances that specialised commissioning is meeting and exceeding the '13Q

duty' and strengthening reporting on assurance to SCOG to enable PPVAG recommendations to be taken into account in its decision making. Future membership will be drawn from PPV members appointed to specific roles within specialised commissioning. Additionally, there will be four independent members who will be recruited through an application and interview process.

### **Assurance**

7. The Committee took updates on (i) the month 6 financial position, (ii) Specialised Commissioning Oversight Group, and (iii) Cancer Drugs Fund Investment Group.

### **Live issues**

8. On 10 November 2016, The Court of Appeal gave its judgment on NHS England's commissioning powers in relation to the provision of anti-retroviral drugs for the prevention of HIV, known as pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP). An extraordinary meeting of the Specialised Services Commissioning Committee took place on 29 November, at which it was agreed that NHS England will fund a major extension to the national HIV prevention programme, led by Public Health England, with the aim of supporting those most at risk and reducing the incidence of HIV infection. Following advice from Public Health England, the first phase of the new programme will be the launch of a large scale clinical trial early in financial year 2017/18 which will answer critical outstanding implementation questions. A decision was also made to routinely commission ten new specialised treatments as part of the annual prioritisation process for specialised treatments.
9. Two consultations have been launched and will close in mid-January. The first is a joint consultation with NICE on proposed changes to the evaluation and funding of drugs and other health technologies, appraised through NICE's Technology Appraisal (TA) and Highly Specialised Technologies (HST) programmes. The second is on generic commissioning policies and will ensure that the policies help NHS England to make the most effective, sustainable and fair use of its finite resources. It focuses on how NHS England will make decisions on funding for treatments that are not currently routinely commissioned, such as in-year service developments and individual funding requests. A programme of engagement events is also underway.