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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 23 January and 22 February 2017, as well as an extraordinary meeting that took place on 29 November 2016.

Specialised Services Commissioning Committee Report

Report to the Board from: Specialised Services Commissioning Committee
Committee Chair: Noel Gordon
Date of the Committee meetings: 23 January and 22 February 2017

Committee meetings

1. This report covers the last two Committee meetings, held on 23 January and 22 February 2017. It also covers an extraordinary meeting of the Committee that took place on 29 November 2016.

Implementation

Clinical priorities

2. The Committee received an update on how specialised commissioning is contributing to the delivery of NHS England's national strategies for mental health, learning disabilities and cancer, and the expected impact on patients. The discussion focused on mental health and learning disabilities, as cancer will be covered in more detail at a future meeting.

Place-based commissioning

3. The Committee received an update on how NHS England is continuing to support greater Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) engagement in and responsibility for specialised services. Sustainability and Transformation Plans (STPs) provide a significant opportunity to improve care for patients, by supporting joint working between NHS England, CCGs and Local Authorities on a place and population basis. The Specialised Commissioning Place-based Commissioning Programme has been working with STP areas to test different approaches to commissioning footprints for specialised commissioning, and is developing an implementation support document to set out the national framework and provide practical guidance to local commissioners.

Joint NHS England and NICE consultation

4. The joint consultation with NICE on changes to the evaluation and funding of drugs and other health technologies, appraised through NICE's Technology Appraisal and Highly Specialised Technologies programmes, closed on 13 January. The consultation responses have been considered and the feedback was presented to the Committee. Work is ongoing between NHS England and NICE to finalise the approach on key issues including: the proposed introduction of a budget impact test; linking NICE and NHS England processes for evaluating highly specialised technologies; and the proposed introduction of a new 'Fast Track Appraisal'.

Generic commissioning policies

5. The consultation on the so-called 'generic' commissioning policies, used to guide the implementation of core commissioning functions for NHS England directly commissioned services, closed on 15 January. The four policies under consideration were: in-year service development; Individual Funding Requests

(IFRs); funding experimental treatment; and continuing funding after registered clinical trials. The consultation responses are being considered, with the intention of providing greater clarity on the policies and how they relate to one another. Further engagement with key stakeholder groups is planned ahead of any publication of revised policies.

Medicines Strategy

6. NHS England has been exploring the potential opportunities to maximise the value that the NHS secures from its medicines and will be developing a Medicines Strategy to address a number of key issues: access to medicines; the price that the NHS pays for medicines; monitoring and review of patients' medicines; and infrastructure to support an effective supply chain. Specialised Commissioning will play a central role in taking forward the Medicines Strategy.

Genomic medicine

7. Work is taking place to embed genomic medicine in the NHS, building on the 100,000 Genomes Project, with the aims of reducing inequities and capitalising on technological developments to deliver personalised medicine. The Committee considered a paper on this work and the discussion focused on: funding commitments; assurance around how the new service model will evolve; and confidence in the eventual price point for Whole Genome Sequencing (WGS). Successful implementation will require the NHS to establish: a new networked genetic laboratory and genomic medicine service infrastructure; a comprehensive genomic testing strategy for the NHS; a coordinated approach to commissioning with CCGs; and further evolution of the NHS informatics environment. The Committee agreed that re-procurement of genetic laboratories should proceed to support these aims.

Assurance

8. The Committee took updates on:
 - (i) the financial position of specialised commissioning at months 8 and 9;
 - (ii) Specialised Commissioning Oversight Group, including updates on: service reviews; Clinical Priorities Advisory Group recommendations; evaluative commissioning, mental health services and RightCare;
 - (iii) Cancer Drugs Fund Investment Group.

Live issues

9. There was a Committee meeting on 29 November 2016, at which it was agreed that NHS England would 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 incidence of HIV infection. The first phase will be to launch a large scale clinical trial early in 2017/18 to address critical outstanding implementation questions.
10. The expert stakeholder panel for the Paediatric Critical Care and Specialised Surgery Review met for the first time in December and again on 13 January. At the inaugural meeting members agreed the issues for consideration in the review and offered their support to NHS England in identifying solutions to ensure that services are sustainable and that children are treated in the right place. A series of

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meetings are planned in March to engage more widely with professional groups with a particular interest in paediatric critical care (PCC) and specialised surgery in children, involving the congenital heart disease (CHD) community, professionals working in PCC, and surgical colleagues.

11. Public consultation on the Congenital Heart Disease (CHD) Review commenced on 9 February 2017 and will close on 5 June 2017, with meetings, webinars and webcasts taking place across the country and in Wales. The CHD Implementation Group will be reviewed after consultation to support providers with implementation. However, the portal remains open for shared learning and peer support.
12. It was announced on 24 February that three new specialised treatments will be made available for patients in England: second allogeneic haematopoietic stem cell transplants; Eculizumab for the treatment of the kidney condition C3 glomerulopathy – which includes C3 glomerulonephritis and dense deposit disease; and Riociguat for pulmonary arterial hypertension.
13. The Committee received an update on the two NHS Proton Beam Therapy (PBT) centres under construction at The Christie NHS Foundation Trust, Manchester and University College London Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, along with contingency arrangements. The Christie PBT centre will open in August 2018 and the centre at UCLH in September 2020.

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