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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 26 April 2017.

## Specialised Services Commissioning Committee Report

**Report to the Board from:** Specialised Services Commissioning Committee  
**Committee Chair:** Noel Gordon  
**Date of the Committee meeting:** 26 April 2017

### Committee meetings

1. This report covers the last Committee meeting, held on 26 April 2017.

### Implementation

#### *Strengthening performance and delivery assurance for specialised commissioning*

2. The Committee considered proposals for strengthening assurance of specialised commissioning using a 'performance assessment' framework. The suggested indicators in the framework would enable assessment of performance against NHS England's aims for specialised services: improved population health; high quality care; and maximising value.
3. There was agreement to the principle of developing the performance assessment for specialised services to assure delivery and performance. In parallel to the performance assessment, the Specialised Commissioning Oversight Group will assess delivery against the milestones set out in NHS England's business plan and operating plan.

#### *Business intelligence for specialised commissioning*

4. The Committee received an update on work to improve business intelligence to support more effective commissioning of specialised services, focusing on the following areas:
  - accessing the right data and information, to triangulate data on cost, activity and outcomes;
  - using business intelligence to prioritise our service change programme, benchmark performance and identify unwarranted variation;
  - identifying the opportunities to reduce unwarranted variation, drive service change and improve care for patients; and
  - linking with wider work across NHS England and NHS Digital on creating expert patients and clinicians.
5. The Committee agreed that work should continue on the priorities set out in the paper, taking account of wider work on business intelligence taking place within NHS England.

### *Patient insight and strategic communications*

6. The Committee considered proposals for improving dialogue with patients and the public, so that they are able to understand better the impacts of specialised commissioning. The five key areas where activity is either underway or proposed to improve dialogue with patients, the public and other stakeholders are:
  - building understanding of our decision making;
  - use of insight and data;
  - proactive communications;
  - training and supporting commissioners on engagement and consultation; and
  - transparency.
7. The Committee expressed its gratitude to all of those who volunteer their time to support the processes that are in place and agreed that it is important to take forward the key areas of work set out in the paper.

### **Assurance**

8. The Committee took updates on:
  - the refreshed Patient and Public Voice Assurance Group, which now includes five newly appointed independent members and one PPV representative from each of the specialised commissioning groups;
  - the financial position of specialised commissioning at the end of 2016/17;
  - Specialised Commissioning Oversight Group, including updates on service reviews and Clinical Priorities Advisory Group recommendations; and
  - Cancer Drugs Fund Investment Group.

### **Live issues**

6. Public consultation on the Congenital Heart Disease (CHD) Review commenced on 9 February 2017 and will be extended due to the general election. NHS England is intending to run engagement events after the election.
7. Mechanical thrombectomy, a new intervention for stroke, is being rolled out to 1,000 patients this year, with the expectation that it will be expanded to up to 10,000 over the next five years.
8. New arrangements for Technology Appraisals and Highly Specialised Technology Appraisals Programmes, which were agreed by NHS England and NICE in March, came into effect from 1 April 2017. Engagement with industry and patients' groups is ongoing.

**Author**      **Katy Knight (Strategy and Policy, Specialised Commissioning)**