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NHS ENGLAND – BOARD PAPER**Title:**

Specialised Services Commissioning Committee (SSCC) Update

Lead Director:

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

Purpose of Paper:

To update the Board on the work and key decisions of the SSCC held on 27 June 2016

The Board invited to:

- (i) To note the work and key decisions of the SSCC
- (ii) To take a verbal update on any issues arising since the last SSCC meeting on the 27 June

Specialised Services Commissioning Committee Report

Report to the Board from: Specialised Services Commissioning Committee
Committee Chair: Noel Gordon
Date of the committee meeting: Monday, 27 June 2016

Committee meetings

1. The last Committee meeting was held on 27 June 2016. The Board should also note that an extraordinary meeting of the Committee was held on 31 May 2016.

Strategy and Reform

2. The Board will wish to note that following Dr Jonathan Fielden's presentation on our new strategic framework, at the last Board meeting, the feedback from key stakeholders – especially patient groups, commissioners and providers – has been positive. Work is now progressing, through our central and regional teams, to align development of our 2017/18 Commissioning Intentions for specialised services with development of the 44 STP plans and the NHS planning guidance. As part of this work, we will be working with four STP areas to demonstrate how the specialised services can, within the legal constraints, be integrated into place- and population-based approaches to planning services. The four STP areas are South East London, Herefordshire and Worcestershire, Greater Manchester and Cornwall.
3. The Committee has decided that NHS England's generic commissioning policies – the interim set of policies that apply across all NHS England's direct commissioning responsibilities – should be simplified. A consultation will be launched this summer on the policy for funding in-year services developments and exceptional cases, including individual funding requests (IFRs).
4. The Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for our new approach to the funding and appraisal of cancer drugs was published on 8 July 2016, and will now 'go live' on the 29 July 2016. This will speed up patient access to new treatments and enhance financial stability. As part of the SOP, a new Cancer Drugs Fund (CDF) Investment Group has been established. It will be chaired by the Chief Finance Officer and will be responsible for ensuring we remain within the budget and for approving individual CDF managed access agreements. It met for the first time on 22 June 2016 to agree Terms of Reference and will report to the SCCC
5. The Clinical Priorities Advisory Group (CPAG) met on 6-9 June 2016 to make recommendations to NHS England on treatments to be funded as part of the 2016/17 prioritisation round. SCCC agreed the list proposed for routine commissioning by NHS England's specialised commissioning oversight group. The list was published on 11 June 2016, and is now available on the NHS England website. Those treatments agreed for potential prioritisation funding in levels 1-4 of 5, are subject to the outcome of the Pre-Exposure Prophylactics (PrEP) Judicial Review given the consequential impact on funding available.
6. The Committee discussed progress on improving data and information for specialised commissioning, a key element of the strategic framework. Four priorities have been agreed: improving existing commissioning / contract management, supporting service

change, linking to wider commissioning outcomes, and improving user interface. Close working with NHS Digital will be required and a working group is being established to ensure alignment.

Assurance

7. The Committee received a financial update for the 2015/16 final outturn and the 2016/17 plan position. The Committee noted the current position on finances, the continuing pressures on the budget and actions being taken by regional and central teams to mitigate financial risk.
8. The Committee received an update on the activity of the Public and Patient Voice Assurance Group (PPVAG) as well as its revised assurance role and membership. The Committee noted that the terms of reference and membership of PPVAG are currently being reviewed to enhance assurance of NHS England's engagement and provide greater transparency on interest, in line with the 'sunlight principles'.

Live issues

9. At the extraordinary meeting on 31 May 2016, to consider the provision of anti-retroviral drugs for the prevention of HIV, the Committee accepted external legal advice that NHS England does not have the power to commission Pre-Exposure Prophylactics (PrEP). Following publication of the decision, the National Aids Trust launched legal proceedings triggering a judicial review. The hearing took place on the 13 July 2106 – a verbal update on the ruling will be given to the Board.
10. The national and regional panel assessments of Congenital Heart Disease (CHD) centres against key standards in the new service specification, which came into effect on 1 April 2016, were completed in June 2016. Following these assessments, the Committee agreed with the recommendation that centres assessed as 'not satisfactory and highly unlikely to meet service standards' should be served notice that NHS England was minded to cease to contract their services. Providers were informed of these assessments at the end of June 2016. Any necessary public involvement would be undertaken before service changes were implemented.
11. The Committee has been informed that the Hepatitis C Trust is seeking judicial review to challenge the use of annual run rates for treatment which NHS England is using to drive up treatment rates to implement NICE guidance for Hepatitis C. NHS England await the court's decision on whether permission to bring a judicial review claim is granted.
12. The Committee has been informed that NHS England will be appealing the recent judicial ruling, on Sodium Oxybate, so as to clarify the law in this area.

Author **Noel Gordon, Chair, Specialised Services Commissioning Committee**