

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 20 June 2017.

Specialised Services Commissioning Committee Report

Report to the Board from: Specialised Services Commissioning Committee
Committee Chair: Noel Gordon
Date of the Committee meeting: 20 June 2017

Committee meetings

1. This report covers the last Committee meeting, held on 20 June 2017, which was chaired by Professor Sir John Burn in Noel Gordon's absence.

Implementation

Specialised commissioning's contribution to the delivery of the Cancer Strategy

2. The Committee received an update on how specialised commissioning is contributing to the delivery of the Cancer Strategy, and how we expect this to impact on patients.
3. The Cancer Strategy objectives for specialised commissioning have been more clearly articulated. From a specialised commissioning perspective there is a particular focus on improving radiotherapy, specialist surgery, children and young people's (CYP) services. Governance arrangements have been updated to include operational responsibility for implementing the Cancer Strategy, as well as cancer transformation. Specialised commissioning is fully embedded in these arrangements.
4. The Committee noted the priorities for specialised commissioning and the revised governance arrangements. The discussion focused on how the specialised commissioning elements of the Strategy will lead to improved patient outcomes.

NHS England Commissioning Policies: Service Development, Individual Funding Requests and Clinical Trials

5. The Committee received an update on the progress to refine the commissioning policies used to guide decisions on NHS England commissioned services, following a public consultation earlier in the year, in particular:
 - Service Development – the policy, and underpinning methods, on how NHS England prioritises investment decisions has been combined with the policy on in-year service developments.
 - Individual Funding Requests (IFR) – the policy on IFRs has been redrafted to reflect the feedback from the consultation and from a workshop held with expert internal stakeholders, including legal advisers.
 - Clinical Trial Policy – following engagement with colleagues at the National Institute for Health Research and the Health Research Authority, the policies have been combined into one 'Clinical Trials Policy'.
6. Work to refine the policies identified areas where further clarification was required, and the Committee agreed the proposal set out in each case.

Securing value from medicines spend in specialised services

7. The Committee received an update on work that is being undertaken in Specialised Commissioning in order to secure maximum value from spend on medicines. This work will contribute to planned efficiency savings in Specialised Commissioning and will also contribute to the Medicines Value Programme savings for 2017/18. There are also potential opportunities to achieve further savings in 2017/18, through ensuring consistency across regions for planned activity, and by taking targeted action on the highest cost treatments.
8. For 2017/18, we established seven main interventions to secure maximum value from spend on medicines. Around 80% of planned savings come from schemes associated with faster adoption of best value medicines including biosimilar.
9. The Committee noted the current approach and the further opportunities for savings, along with the key risks, and asked to be kept updated on progress.

Assurance

10. The Committee took updates on:
 - the May 2017 meeting of the Patient and Public Voice Assurance Group, which focused on gender identity services (surgical and non-surgical) and the procurement of genetic laboratories;
 - the 2017/18 financial planning position, including potential risks and associated mitigations to the delivery of an overall balanced plan, and the latest position on provider contracts;
 - Specialised Commissioning Oversight Group, including updates on clinical priorities, service reviews and Clinical Priorities Advisory Group recommendations; and
 - Cancer Drugs Fund Investment Group.

Live issues

11. The public consultation on proposals relating to the congenital heart disease (CHD) review has attracted a high degree of interest. The consultation finishes on 17 July.