

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 7 September 2017.

Specialised Services Commissioning Committee Report

Report to the Board from: Specialised Services Commissioning Committee
Committee Chair: Noel Gordon
Date of the Committee meeting: 7 September 2017

Committee meetings

1. This report covers the last Committee meeting, held on 7 September 2017.

Implementation

Specialised commissioning strategic communications

2. The Committee received an update on actions being taken to improve our dialogue with patients and the public to understand better the impacts of specialised commissioning and to improve the transparency of specialised commissioning decision-making.
3. The paper introduced the first stage of a programme to improve our dialogue with stakeholders, patients and the public:
 - 'Spotlight on Specialised Services, a pamphlet aimed at stakeholders (patient groups, parliamentarians, media, clinicians, managers and industry) highlighting some of the recent investments in new treatments;
 - a short narrative providing clarity on what specialised commissioning involves and some of the difficult decisions that have to be made, which will be included in the pamphlet, on our website and elsewhere to ensure that our public-facing messages are consistent; and
 - an animation setting out the purpose of specialised commissioning in a form that is easy to digest and designed to appeal to a wider patient and public audience.
4. The Committee approved the communications materials and the next steps in taking forward the communications strategy.

Place-based commissioning of specialised services

5. The Committee received an update on plans and progress for implementing place-based commissioning of specialised services in 2017/18, building on the plans for Sustainability and Transformation Partnerships.
6. Three key priorities have been identified for 2017/18:
 - putting in place the right **system architecture and governance** to enable place-based commissioning of specialised services with STPs/ACSS;
 - exploring **population-based budgets**; and
 - understanding the **organisational impact** of new arrangements for specialised commissioning, including ensuring capability and capacity are in the right place.
7. The Committee agreed the outline plans for implementing place-based commissioning of specialised services in 2017/18 and the transition assurance for

areas looking to take on more responsibility for specialised commissioning, as well as noting the update on Greater Manchester Health and Social Care Partnership's plans to take on more responsibility for commissioning specialised mental health services under their devolution arrangements.

Implementation Plan for UK Strategy for Rare Diseases

8. The Committee received the draft NHS England Implementation Plan for the UK Strategy for Rare Diseases plan. It has been developed by:
 - consolidating work underway in specialised commissioning, which has been agreed by the Rare Diseases Advisory Group;
 - incorporating any aligned NHS England workstreams that have the potential to have an impact on patients with rare diseases;
 - including a number of actions against those commitments where NHS England had no previous plans.
9. The most critical areas of the plan include: continuing to make progress on genomic medicine; implementing the rare disease insert (a set of criteria that will sit alongside certain NHS England service specifications); and developing rare disease research networks.
10. The document will need to make clear how the actions set out will lead to improved quality and outcomes and NHS England will need to ensure that progress against the plan is being measured.
11. The Committee reviewed and approved the draft Implementation Plan, subject to minor changes, and agreed to publication later in 2017, alongside the complementary plan being developed by the Department of Health.

Assurance

12. The Committee took updates on:
 - the June, July and August 2017 meetings of the Patient and Public Voice Assurance Group, where the following items were considered for assurance: radiotherapy services; intestinal failure, Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy; spinal cord injury; and high consequence airborne infectious diseases for adults and for children;
 - the 2017/18 financial planning position at Month 4, including potential risks and associated mitigations to the delivery of an overall balanced plan, and the latest position on provider contracts;
 - the Specialised Commissioning Oversight Group meetings in June and July 2017, including updates on clinical priorities, service reviews and Clinical Priorities Advisory Group recommendations; and
 - The Cancer Drugs Fund Investment Group.

Live issues

13. The public consultation on proposals relating to the congenital heart disease (CHD) review has attracted a high degree of interest, with around 8,000 responses. These responses are currently being considered.