

REPORT TO COUNCIL

17 JULY 2013

**REPORT FROM CORPORATE
MANAGEMENT TEAM**

**CONSULTATION RESPONSE TO RECONFIGURATION OF CRITICAL CARE AND
EMERGENCY MEDICINE SERVICES AT NORTH TEES AND HARTLEPOOL NHS
FOUNDATION TRUST**

SUMMARY

This report presents consultation proposals relating to Critical Care and Emergency Medicine at North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust. In line with the statutory regulations, arrangements have been made to establish a separate Joint Health Scrutiny Committee in order to respond to the consultation.

The Joint Health Scrutiny Committee will be meeting on 11 July 2013 to consider the proposals and take evidence from key stakeholders. A further update will be presented to the Council meeting, comprising Stockton's proposed views and comments in relation to the consultation, thereby enabling Members to agree the Council's consultation submission for inclusion in the Joint Committee's response to the consultation.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council endorse Stockton's consultation submission for inclusion in the Joint Health Scrutiny Committee's response to the consultation, as required by the statutory regulations and the Council's constitution.

DETAIL

1. At the request of Hartlepool and Stockton-on-Tees CCG, the National Clinical Advisory Team (NCAT) has undertaken a review of the provision of Critical Care and Emergency Medical services within North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust.
2. The NCAT review advised on the configuration of services in the lead up to the completion of the planned single-site hospital at Wynyard. The NCAT Final Report was published on 15 May.
3. In line with the NCAT recommendations, the CCG has now entered into a period of public consultation between 20 May and 11 August on proposals to reconfigure the services under review.
4. The public consultation document states that, 'after much discussion with health professionals, a review of alternative options and receiving the report from the independent National Clinical Advisory Team, which agreed that there are no viable safe

alternatives, we are now proposing to centralise emergency medical and critical care services at the University Hospital of North Tees from October 2013.'

5. Public consultation is being undertaken by Hartlepool and Stockton-on-Tees CCG, in partnership with Durham Dales, Easington and Sedgfield (DDES) CCG, and North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust.
6. The public consultation document states that the Trust would:
 - "open 120 beds at the University Hospital of North Tees to make sure we have enough beds and staff to look after patients from right across our area
 - make extra space in critical care so we can look after critically ill patients
 - then, gradually, close the beds in medicine and critical care at the University Hospital of Hartlepool
 - and transfer a number of staff from support services such as pharmacy, radiology and pharmacy and estates that need to come to the University Hospital of North Tees to support the new arrangements"

The proposals also include the potential for additional elective and rehabilitation services at the University Hospital of Hartlepool.

7. Further detail on the public consultation process can be accessed via:

<http://www.hartlepoolandstocktonccg.nhs.uk/content/page.aspx?type=news&page=8>

8. The Local Authority (Public Health, Health and Wellbeing Boards and Health Scrutiny) Regulations 2013 require the formation of a joint scrutiny arrangement when an NHS body or relevant health service provider consults more than one local authority on proposals to make substantial variations or developments to services. They provide that all the local authorities whose residents are affected and that consider the matter to be a substantial variation to local health services, must participate in the joint scrutiny arrangement for the purpose of responding to the consultation.
9. In such situations it is only the Joint Committee that may require the organisation proposing the change to provide information to them, or attend before them to answer questions. If a local authority has opted out of the joint arrangement, they may not request information or attendance from the NHS body or relevant health service provider proposing the change.
10. In scrutinising the proposals, the Joint Committee should aim to consider the proposal from the perspectives of all those affected or potentially affected by that proposal.
11. On this basis, Stockton-on-Tees, Hartlepool and Durham Councils have established a Joint Committee for the purposes of responding to the Critical Care and Emergency Medicine consultation.
12. The Joint Health Scrutiny Committee will be meeting on 11 July 2013 to consider the consultation proposals and take evidence from key stakeholders. A further meeting of the Joint Committee will take place on Monday 29 July to agree the final consultation response from the Joint Health Scrutiny Committee (which will incorporate Stockton Council's response).

FINANCIAL AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

13. Health Scrutiny Regulations stipulate that a joint committee made up of each Council that considers the matter to be a substantial variation must be formed to respond to the consultation. It is only the joint committee that has the right to be consulted and respond.
14. In addition, Stockton Borough Council's Constitution requires that consultation submissions relating to substantial variations are approved by Council.

RISK ASSESSMENT

15. Risks will be assessed by the Joint Scrutiny Committee.

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSEMENT

16. Any equality issues will be assessed by the Joint Scrutiny Committee.

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY IMPLICATIONS

17. The review relates to the following Sustainable Community Strategy 2012/21 ambitions
 - Improved access to health services
 - Increased choice and voice for service users

CONSULTATION INLCUDING WARD/COUNCILLORS

18. Details of the consultation proposals have been sent by email to all Councillors. The Cabinet Member for Adult Services and Health and the Adult Services and Health Select Committee have also been informed of the consultation.

Contact Officer

Peter Mennear, Scrutiny Officer,
Tel 01642 528957
Email: peter.mennear@stockton.gov.uk

Background Papers

None

Ward(s) and Ward Councillors

The review will affect all wards in the Borough

Property

This report has no implications for the Council's Capital Programme and Asset Management Plan.