

26 October 2009

Consultation and Service Configuration Update

Summary

The Committee are requested to consider and note the update on the various consultations that are ongoing and will be of interest to Members.

Detail

Quality Accounts

1. The Department of Health is consulting on the introduction of Quality Accounts. Providers of NHS services will be required to produce these in the form of an annual report that is aimed at enabling the public to be able to hold them to account for the quality of care they deliver (acute providers will be required to produce them from June 2010, and community services/primary care subsequent to this). The consultation seeks views on the guidance and regulations that will be put in place to govern the production of the accounts, and an invitation to contribute is attached.

End of life care

2. NHS North East is consulting on people's experiences in relation to end of life issues. The aim is to produce a Charter for 'a good death', and details of the consultation can be found via www.agooddeath.co.uk. The consultation will run until December.

Northern Burn Care Service Reconfiguration

3. Members have previously been updated on the recommendations coming from the review of Northern region burn care. It was recommended that there should be two adult supra regional centres (SRCs) and one paediatric SRC. It was also recommended that the paediatric SRC is combined with one of the adult SRCs. The proposed locations of the two SRCs are Manchester for the combined adult/paediatric SRC and Wakefield for the second adult SRC.
4. The proposals have not yet been signed off by the relevant Specialised Commissioning Groups as they await the results of a Service Change Assurance Process. This is being undertaken by the North West SHA on behalf of all the affected areas. The SHA believe that the proposed model does offer the prospect of achieving service benefits, subject to further work being undertaken in the following areas:
 - The need to further understand the compelling case for change.

- The need for further work to be undertaken on a number of operational issues particularly the potential impact of setting up the SRCs on the RCs (activity volumes; specialist workforce; service resilience)
- The need for further work on the financial implications and the value for money benefit.
- The need for further engagement with specific OSC groups where there are particular concerns about the potential impact for the local population.

National Specialised Commissioning Groups

5. Similar to the specialised burns services that are commissioned on a supra-regional basis, a number of more highly specialised services are commissioned on a national basis. Notification has been received of reviews that have started in relation to Children's Cardiac Care, and Children's Neurosurgery.
6. Both reviews have produced newsletters and these are attached. Both reviews are scheduled to produce recommendations for change over the next two years and, as stakeholders, scrutiny committees will need to be kept informed. Consultation on the Cardiac Care proposals is expected in September 2010.
7. Members should be aware that Tees Valley Joint Health Committee has requested updates on the proposals at appropriate stages, and Members on this Select Committee will also be updated as the proposals develop.

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