

APPENDIX 1

Neurosciences Report – Middlesbrough Council Health Scrutiny Panel

9th Nov 2011

The questions posed by the Committee:

- 1. What aspects of Neurological services for the people of Middlesbrough are commissioned by the specialist commissioning function?**
- 2. What level of resource is the regional specialist commissioning function responsible for relating to neurological services in Middlesbrough and the North East? Where is that money spent?**
- 3. From the perspective of a regional specialist commissioner, where are the service gaps in Neurological Services in Middlesbrough?**
- 4. What level of intelligence does the regional specialist commissioning function have about the level and type of neurological need in Middlesbrough?**
- 5. How is it decided which parts of Neurological Services should be commissioned locally and which should be commissioned regionally?**
- 6. The Panel has heard a view that patients from Middlesbrough are placed at a disadvantage when compared to Tyneside based patients. Whilst Neurosurgery is available in the Newcastle & Middlesbrough, it would seem that there is only one neuro rehab unit is commissioned through the higher tariff specialised**

commissioning route, which is in Newcastle. Is this a position that the specialised commissioning function recognises?

7. In the view of the specialised commissioning function, where does the commissioning or provision of neurological services in Middlesbrough need to develop?

Specialised Commissioning of Neurological services

Introduction

The North East Specialised Commissioning Group (NESCAG) has delegated responsibility for commissioning a range of specialised services on behalf of primary care organisations (PCOs) across the North East.

The NESCAG membership comprises all the chief executives from the PCTs across the North East together with directors from the SHA; decisions made by NESCAG are binding for all PCT members. The NESCAG plans specialised health services for a population of approximately 2.8m (2.5m North East Strategic Health Authority (NESA), and 0.3m North Cumbria).

The NESCAG is supported by the North East Specialised Commissioning Team (NESCT), an integrated management team hosted by NHS North of Tyne. NESCT is responsible for leading the day to day commissioning of most specialised services in the North East and also commissioning services on behalf of North Cumbria residents at the request of the North West SCG.

Specialised services are those services provided for relatively rare conditions in relatively few specialist centres to populations of more than one million people. They are generally high cost, low volume services and are either commissioned regionally, by the 10 Specialised Commissioning Groups (SCGs) - one SCG per SHA - or nationally by the National Commissioning Group (NCG).

Specialised commissioning is defined nationally - the Specialised Services National Definitions Set (SSNDS) describe these services in more detail, there are currently 34 specialised services definitions. The definitions provide a helpful basis for service reviews and strategic planning and enable commissioners to make comparisons on activity levels and spend. The definitions help with the identification of activity that should be regarded as specialised and therefore subject to collaborative commissioning arrangements.

Specialised Neurological Services in the North East

In terms of neurological services NESCT commissions services described in Definition 7, Specialised Rehabilitation Services for Brain Injury and Complex Disability (Appendix I) and Definition 8, Specialised Neurosciences Services (Appendix II). There are also aspects of other definitions which overlap with neurological services, such as Definition 5, Assessment and Provision of Equipment for People with Complex Physical Disabilities; Definition 6, Specialised Spinal Services; and Definition 22, Mental Health, for which NESCT will commission.

All services commissioned by NESCT are available to the whole North East region – we do not commission any services on behalf of any individual PCTs. Neurological services commissioned by NESCT in Middlesbrough are provided by South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. They include all neurology services, in-patient and out-patient, neurophysiology, neuropathology, neuroradiology, neuropsychology and neurosurgery. Service specifications for the neurology and neurosurgery service provided by STFT are attached as Appendix III and IV.

Middlesbrough patients are also able to access any neurological services commissioned by NESCT and provided elsewhere in the region including Newcastle and Sunderland. The regional Specialised Neurorehabilitation and Neuropsychiatry service provided by Northumberland Tyne and Wear Trust at

Walkergate Park in Newcastle upon Tyne is a regional service and accepts referrals from Middlesbrough.

Neurorehabilitation Services

The Definition for Specialised Rehabilitation Services for Brain Injury and Complex Disability describes the levels of service provision for neurorehabilitation and the categories of rehabilitation need. Specialised rehabilitation services are provided by Level 1 units for Category A patients. Non-specialised rehabilitation services are provided by Level 2 and Level 3 units. Level 2 units provide 'local specialist rehabilitation' to patients with Category B needs, they may also accept certain patients with Category A needs depending on the facilities, expertise and staffing levels available. Level 3 units provide rehabilitation in the context of acute or intermediate care services to Category C and D patients.

NESCT are responsible for commissioning Level 1 neurorehabilitation services for Category A patients. In the North East this service is provided by Northumberland Tyne and Wear Trust at Walkergate Park. This is a regional, purpose-built facility, opened in 2006, providing in-patient and out-patient services to the population of the North East. NESCT is aware that access to Walkergate Park is sometimes limited and waiting times can be long, this is currently being discussed with the Trust. South Tees Hospitals Foundation Trust provides Level 2 neurorehabilitation at James Cook University Hospital for category B patients and occasionally category A patients; the service is commissioned by NHS Tees. NESCT is working in collaboration with South Tees Foundation Trust and colleagues from NHS Tees to review the current commissioning arrangements with a view to develop consistent arrangements across the North East.

Resource

Table 1 below shows the 2011/12 contract baseline amounts for each Trust that NESCT holds a contract with for neurosciences and neurorehabilitation.

Total Contract Value for NE PCTs and North Cumbria	South Tees Hospitals NHS FT	Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS FT	City Hospitals Sunderland NHS FT	NTW FT (Walkergate Park)	Total
Neurology IP	£2,362,430	£3,794,835	£684,669		£6,841,934
Neurology - high cost drugs	£1,726,406				£1,726,406
Neurology OP	£2,420,278	£3,665,757	£1,006,175		£7,092,210
					£0
Neurosurgery IP	£5,232,057	£16,517,896			£21,749,953
Neurosurgery - high cost drugs, devices & HDU	£2,272,161				£2,272,161
Neurosurgery OP	£1,302,571	£4,208,492	£70,659		£5,581,722
					£0
Clinical neurophysiology OP	£743,433				£743,433
					£0
Neurorehab IP				£4,544,179	£4,544,179
Total	£16,059,336	£28,186,980	£1,761,503	£4,544,179	£50,551,998

Note: the above figures exclude CQUIN value.

Table 1: 2011/12 contract baseline

Table 2 below shows the contribution from Middlesbrough PCT to NESCT contracts for neurosciences and neurorehabilitation. This is based on a risk share arrangement across all the PCTs within NESCG. The risk share amount is based on a 5 year rolling average of activity to 2009/10.

Middlesbrough PCT contribution based on risk share apportionment	South Tees Hospitals NHS FT	Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS FT	City Hospitals Sunderland NHS FT	NTW FT (Walkergate Park)	Total
Neurology IP	£424,641	£3,563			£428,204
Neurology - high cost drugs	£310,318				£310,318
neurology OP	£471,137	£4,178	£284		£475,599
					£0
Neurosurgery IP	£806,552	£26,153			£832,705
Neurosurgery - high cost drugs, devices & HDU	£350,267				£350,267
Neurosurgery OP	£163,158	£3,492			£166,650
					£0
Clinical neurophysiology OP	£131,778				£131,778
					£0
Neurorehab IP				£79,602	£79,602
Total	£2,657,851	£37,386	£284	£79,602	£2,775,123

Intelligence and needs analysis

NESCT receives quality and performance data, including waiting times, MRSA and Cdiff rates, as well as activity information at PCT level from all of their providers on a monthly basis. This information is reviewed with each Trust at monthly contract monitoring meetings. This information allows NESCT to develop a picture of needs across the region and work with the Trusts to manage waiting times and demand for the service.

NESCT carried out a review of neurology services in the North East which looked at the incidence and prevalence rates of neurological conditions; this is taken into account when commissioning services. It is important to note that

NESCT plan services based on the needs of the population in the North East and not individual PCT population needs.

The North East Public Health Observatory (NEPHO) published a Health Needs Assessment for Long Term Neurological Conditions in 2009, this document is currently being updated and will provide NESCT with valuable information on the neurological needs of its population.

Gaps in service and opportunities for development

One of the reasons for long waiting lists at Walkergate Park and potential 'bed blocking' in the neurorehabilitation ward at James Cook University Hospital is the lack of appropriate community based neurorehabilitation facilities. This was recognised as a gap in 2009 and NESCT put out a collaborative tender for 'Step Forward' neurorehab beds on behalf of the North East PCTs. Unfortunately the tender was unsuccessful due to the lack of competitive pricing from bidders who based prices on spot purchase rates and failed to provide a discount for collaborative purchasing. There remains a need for 'Step Forward' neurorehab facilities across the region in order to prevent long waiting times and inappropriate and expensive neurorehabilitation.

The lack of community rehab services in Middlesbrough was also recognised during a review of neurorehabilitation services carried out by Tees PCT in Aug 2010. The provision of all levels of neurorehabilitation across the region needs to be addressed to ensure consistency, appropriate care and equity of access for all patients.

The future for Specialised Commissioning

Subject to the enactment of the Health and Social Care Bill, Specialised Commissioning will become a function of the NHS Commissioning Board (NCB). Specialised Commissioning Groups (SCGs) have already aligned into clusters synonymous with the SHA clusters. Work is being undertaken nationally to ensure a smooth transition to the NCB by April 2013, this

includes developing national service specifications and quality dashboards to which all SCGs will be required to commission. This means that all specialised neurological services across the country will follow the same service specification and report on the same outcomes. The final list of services which will be commissioned as specialised services will be agreed once the Bill has passed through legislation, however we are working on the assumption that all services within the current definitions set will be included.

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Please Note: The following **Appendices** have been e mailed to Members and Officers, with reference copies to be made available at the scrutiny panel meeting:

Appendix I: Third edition SSNDs - Definition 7, Specialised Rehabilitation Services for Brain Injury and Complex Disability

Appendix II: Third edition SSNDs Definition 8, Specialised Neurosciences Services

Appendix III: Service specification 2011/12 – Neurology – South Tees Hospitals Foundation Trust

Appendix IV: Service specification 2011/12 – Neurosurgery – South Tees Hospitals Foundation Trust