

MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM 4

HEALTH SCRUTINY PANEL

14 AUGUST 2013

NEUROLOGICAL SERVICES UPDATE

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. To introduce a number of senior representatives of local public bodies who will be in attendance at the meeting to provide the panel with an update on Neurological Services.

RECOMMENDATIONS

2. That the Health Scrutiny Panel notes the information submitted at the meeting today and considers if any further consideration is needed on this topic.

Consideration

3. The Panel received a great deal of information during their review of Neurological Services, which culminated in a final report in January 2012 (Appendix 1).
4. The Panel, on the basis of the evidence presented to them, made the following conclusions
 - a) Middlesbrough did not have sufficient capacity to deal with the need for neuro-rehabilitation. The Panel felt that there was a strong argument for neurological rehabilitation services and intelligence around local need being included in the refresh of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment.
 - b) There was a strong argument that suggested that the Clinical Commissioning Group (which was just being created at the time the review was undertaken) and the then PCT should start to consider developing community based expertise in neurological conditions and their rehabilitation. The Panel heard that this would have been an important step as historically, neurological patients had been unnecessarily admitted into acute wards.

- c) The Panel were concerned about the lack of community based rehabilitative services and were interested to see how the developments at the Gateway project would improve the level of services.
 - d) The Panel wanted James Cook University Hospital (JCUH) to obtain a Specialised Commissioners as a Level 1 facility which could then mean an increased level of funding, staff resources and prestige.
 - e) The Panel also wanted to see on going support to the North East Neuro Sciences Network (NENN)
5. The panel made a number of recommendations and an action plan was produced. (Appendix 2)

In Attendance

6. For this meeting, the following representatives will be in attendance for a round table discussion on the topic, updating the panel on recent developments in this area since the review was undertaken.
- Professor Kane – Chief Of Service – Neurosciences, JCUH
 - Sharon Poskitt – Senior Nurse – Neurosciences, JCUH
 - Boda Gallon, Chief Executive, Keiro Group
 - Julie Stevens, Commissioning Manager, Service Planning and Reform, CCG
 - Dr Henry Waters – Chair, South Tees CCG
 - Lisa Jordan – Local Service Specialist, Specialist Commissioning, NHS England

Possible Areas to Explore in Further Detail

7. The panel concluded at the time of the review that JCUH was extremely good at dealing with people who have had major neurological injury and illness. There was, however, an area of concern around what happens to people who need rehabilitation services, once they are out of immediate danger, and whether or not there were adequate facilities in Middlesbrough to deal with the level of demand.
8. There are a number of areas which the panel may wish to explore further based on the recommendations made in their report.
- Has there been a review of the activity and level of rehabilitation needs of the patients they have been treating on the neuro rehabilitation ward?
 - Have the population needs for specialised neuro-rehab facilities been assessed?

- Does current capacity meet the current level of evidenced need?
 - Post reorganisation, what are the specialist commissioner views on current and future levels of service and how will services be developed?
 - What do the health professionals see as the remaining challenges in this area?
9. The panel will also receive an update on the development of the Gateway project in Middlesbrough, from the Chief Executive of the Keiro Group. The Keiro Group is a specialist neuro rehabilitation provider and is currently building a new facility in Middlehaven.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

- a) Appendix 1 – Final Report of the Health Scrutiny Panel January 2012
- b) Appendix 2 – Health Scrutiny Panel – Neurological Services, Recommendations and Action Plan 28 February 2012

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