

# MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL

## AGENDA ITEM 3

### HEALTH SCRUTINY PANEL

18 NOVEMBER 2013

<p><b>CHILDREN'S AND MATERNITY SERVICES AT THE FRIARAGE HOSPITAL – IMPACT ON JAMES COOK UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL</b></p>
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#### PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. To provide members of the Health Scrutiny Panel with information on the changes to the children's and maternity care at the Friarage Hospital in Northallerton. This information will assist in the discussion regarding the impact of the implementation of those proposals on the James Cook University Hospital (JCUH).

#### BACKGROUND

2. The Hambleton, Richmondshire and Whitby CCG (HRW CCG) are consulting on changes to children's and maternity care at the Friarage Hospital. Under the proposals, the existing 24 hour consultant-led paediatric and maternity services would be replaced by one of two options.
3. The CCG are now consulting the public and stakeholders between 2 September and 25 November. The 2 options for the future delivery of services are as follows
  - Option 1** – Providing a Paediatric Short Stay Assessment Unit and a Midwifery Led Unit with full outpatient services and enhanced services in the community.
  - Option 2** – Providing paediatric outpatient services and Midwifery Led Unit and enhanced services in the community.
4. When considering the changes the Tees Valley Health Scrutiny Joint Committee learnt that doing nothing was not an option. The National Clinical Advisory Team (NCAT) had visited the Friarage Hospital in December 2011

and agreed that there was a problem in sustaining services. It supported the ideas for the future being put forward by the hospital clinicians.

### **Why Change is Necessary**

5. The HRW CCG's public consultation document explains that the Friarage hospital does not have enough consultants to fully staff the ward to national standards. Given advances in medicine and the way children are cared for, many conditions can be managed safely in the community and the child's home with support of GPs, health and social care staff. Evidence also suggests that services are best provided in major centres with staff that have the right specialist skills. Doctors are now skilled in specific areas, whereas in previous years they were trained to be generalists. Therefore paediatric units need more doctors to ensure there is always one with the right specialist skills to deal with any condition, but it is becoming increasingly more difficult to replace the current consultant workforce. A view supported by the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health.

### **Scrutiny within the Tees Valley**

6. The Tees Valley Health Joint Scrutiny Committee has been briefed as part of the consultation and will be submitting their response to the consultation.
7. Members of the Health Scrutiny Panel at Darlington Council are looking at the implications of the proposals on Darlington Memorial Hospital.

### **Discussion**

8. Under the preferred option 1, women will be sent to JCUH, Darlington Memorial Hospital, York Hospital or Harrogate District Hospital for consultant led maternity care. Therefore it was considered appropriate that the panel look at what the implications would be for JCUH.
9. Attached to this report at **appendix 1** is the HRW CCG's public consultation document which outlines the process in further detail and how services will look in the future.
10. The proposals may lead to an increase in activity at JCUH, hence the following representatives have been invited to attend today's meeting to discuss this issue further.
  - Jill Moulton, Director of Service Strategy & Infrastructure, South Tees Hospitals NHS Trust
  - Dr Vicky Pleydell, Clinical Chief Officer, NHS Hambleton, Richmondshire & Whitby Clinical Commissioning Group have been invited to today's meeting to discuss what the implications will be of this change on the JCUH.
11. Members may wish to ask questions on the following areas

- a) What will the increased patient flow mean to the demand and pressures on both maternity services and paediatric services at JCUH?
- b) Will staffing numbers need to be increased to deal with any increased activity? And if so, is this feasible in today's economic climate?
- c) During the engagement exercise people were concerned about the travelling times, the cost of travel and access to suitable transport. How has the Trust been involved in assessing travel times and emergency routes and planning suitable transport?
- d) Has the Trust been involved in discussions with the ambulance service regarding how women who may need to be transferred for emergency consultant led care are done so safely?

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 12. That the panel consider the information provided, and agree whether to submit a response to the consultation.

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- a) Children's and Maternity services at The Friarage Hospital – The public consultation document – options for the future

### **Contact Officer:**

Elise Pout  
Scrutiny Support Officer  
Telephone: 01642 728302(direct line)  
e mail: elise\_pout@middlesbrough.gov.uk