

**HEALTH SCRUTINY PANEL**

**24 FEBRUARY 2015**

**Neurological Services – An Update**

**PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

1. To present the panel with an outline of the purpose of the meeting.

**BACKGROUND**

2. In January 2012 the Health Scrutiny Panel undertook a review of Neurological Services. The panel concluded at that time that James Cook University Hospital was extremely good at dealing with people who have had a 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. The panel were updated with progress in this area when they met with a number of representatives in August 2013. In brief, the panel heard the following information:
  - That work had taken place to identify gaps in services and adopt a whole system approach. Members heard how the work was ongoing with regard to ensuring that appropriate continued support was provided in the community for patients with long terms conditions. It was acknowledged, in August 2013, that this was still an area for improvement.
  - A regional network for neuro-rehabilitation was being pursued with the emphasis on working collaboratively to ensure the most appropriate facility was provided for patients based on geographical and/or level of need, but that further clarification was awaited regarding its remit.
  - It was noted that there was a potential for greater improvement with regard to community services (and work was progressing on the Transforming Community Services Programme such as the IMProVE programme) to ensure that the most appropriate treatment and/or support is provided to patients in the right setting.
  - The panel learnt that in specialist commissioning a mandatory tariff was to be introduced in 2014 depending on the level of nursing and consultancy which would be funded by NHS England or the CCG.

## **For Information – The National Picture**

3. Also attached at Appendix 2 is a publication from the Neurological Alliance entitled 'The Invisible Patients'. The report outlines that nationally neurology is still an under resourced and under prioritised field within the health and care system and that there is too much variation in service quality. Key findings from the survey carried out by the Alliance found that nearly 40% of respondents waited more than 12 months from when they first noticed their symptoms to seeing a neurological specialist. The report made a number of recommendations including: that the Department of Health and NHS England should ensure that the time taken to reach a stable and accurate neurological diagnosis following first consultation is tracked and scrutinised; and that local and national commissioners should regularly review utilisation of the care and support services available to patients to ensure rapid access to the full range of services.

## **Format of Meeting**

4. The meeting will take the form of a round table discussion in order for the panel and the representatives attending to discuss the following issues
  - Details of the current position
  - A general update on the recommendations from the previous review (Appendix 1) and the findings from the last update (above)
  - An analysis of what happens to people who 'fall out' of the system
  - Identification of any gaps in provision
  - Details of the influence GPs have in the commissioning of services. Details on the impact of the new mandatory tariff.
5. The following representatives will be in attendance at the meeting in order to discuss the above

Claire Braid – Network Delivery Lead – Northern England Strategic Clinical Networks

Peter Dixon – Specialist Commissioning, NHS England

Sarah Elliot – Specialist Commissioning, NHS England

Boda Gallon, Chief Executive - Keiro Group

Professor Phil Kane – South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

Dr Mike Milner, GP Executive Lead for Urgent Care, South Tees Clinical Commissioning Group

Lucy Tulloch, Directorate Manager, Neurosciences, South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

Phil Whittingham, North East Commissioning Support Unit

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

6. It is recommended that the position be noted, unless Members agree there are areas which need further investigation

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Minutes of the Health Scrutiny Panel 14 August 2013 and Health Scrutiny Panel Final Report 10 January 2012.

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