

# MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL

## SCRUTINY REPORT

### HEALTH SCRUTINY PANEL

12 JUNE 2018

#### COMMUNITY SKIN SERVICES IN SOUTH TEES

##### **Background**

NHS South Tees CCG commission dermatology and skin services from a number of providers for the population of Middlesbrough and Redcar & Cleveland. This includes secondary care services and community based services.

There are existing contractual arrangements with 3 different providers for a range of community based dermatology and minor skin surgery assessment and treatment services, the contracts for which come to a natural end on 31 March 2019. Although services are located within both the Middlesbrough and Redcar & Cleveland localities, existing provision does not offer choice in the fullest sense as the scope of services offered by each provider varies greatly. Patient choice in where the assessment and treatment takes place would be dependent on the condition, and the patient's age. There is evidence that some patients are being referred to the incorrect services as there is confusion amongst referrers about exception criteria. There is also greater potential for patients to be seen in the community or GP practice if patient management pathways were more clearly defined.

In order to ensure future provision is in line with best practice for skin services, meets patients' needs, provide equitable access, and deliver high quality care; a service review of existing provision is being undertaken by the CCG in line with the contract end date to ensure continuity of service provision.

##### **Current services commissioned**

South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (STHFT) are commissioned as part of the acute block contract to provide a full range of Tier 3 and Tier 4 Dermatology services for patients with inflammatory skin disease, skin disorders of different causes and skin cancer. The service provides surgical as well as medical treatments and therapies.

The providers, commissioned to deliver additional community based assessment and treatment services for selected dermatology and minor skin conditions including minor surgery are:

- South Tees Hospitals Foundation Trust – STHFT provide a Level 3 Intermediate Community Skin Care Service offering assessment and treatment of selected dermatology and skin conditions (including minor surgery). The service operates from the One Life, Middlesbrough.

- ELM Alliance - ELM provides a primary care minor skin surgery service for patients operating out of Redcar Primary Care Hospital. The service offers surgical removal of pre-cancerous skin disorders, low risk cancerous skin and lumps and bumps (where clinically appropriate).
- Ramsey Healthcare - Ramsay provides an out-patient and day-case facility for the assessment, diagnosis and treatment of conditions including dermatology and minor surgery. The service has operated from the One Life, Middlesbrough, but has recently moved to the Tees Valley Hospital in Acklam, Middlesbrough.

In addition many GP practices provide a small number of services including removal of low risk Basal Cell Carcinomas under a Minor Surgery Directed Enhanced Service commissioned by NHS England.

## **Review**

Existing commissioned community skin arrangements have been in place prior to 2013. Regular service reviews are good practice and part of the CCG's routine commissioning processes to ensure that services meet patients' needs and are both clinically and cost effective. There is some evidence that the current pathway of historic provision is not clearly defined and patients do not always reach the right place first time. The CCG will undertake a review of all commissioned community skin services, including minor skin surgery services, and develop recommendations for future provision to ensure a robust local pathway is in place that enables patients to reach the right service. The review will consider regional and national best practice.

The review will enable patients, clinicians and stakeholders via engagement activities to share their experiences of services to inform local recommendations on future provision. The review will be undertaken from 1 March to 31 July 2018. The recommendations of the review will be considered by the CCG's Executive Group. The review will propose how services should be provided in the future to deliver the best clinical outcomes.