

# MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM 3

## SOUTH TEES HEALTH SCRUTINY JOINT COMMITTEE

11 DECEMBER 2015

### Temporary Changes to the Breast Radiology Department

#### PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. To present the committee with an outline of the meeting and introduce a number of health professionals who are in attendance to provide evidence.

#### BACKGROUND

2. Members will recall that in September the South Tees Hospitals NHS Trust informed stakeholders of the temporary changes to the breast radiology department at the James Cook University Hospital (JCUH). The Committee met to discuss those changes on 13 October.
3. The committee were provided with the latest position, including the following information:
  - a. The consultant radiographer and the highly specialist radiographer had both left JCUH to take up posts in other organisations. In addition to that, there is a national shortage of radiologists with skills in this discipline which has led to difficulties recruiting to those posts.
  - b. As a result under the current staffing levels it would not be safe to continue to offer the services at the James Cook University Hospital (JCUH).
  - c. As a temporary solution, from 1 October, the North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust agreed to provide the service for patients from Middlesbrough and Redcar and Cleveland. These are extra sessions; the new patient appointment clinics are undertaken at North Tees Hospital and conducted by South Tees consultants and breast care nurses. It is only the radiology imaging that is provided by North Tees staff.
  - d. It was initially proposed that the interim arrangements were to be for 6 weeks; however it was likely that this would be extended. It provided the

Trust and the South Tees Clinical Commissioning Group with an opportunity to consider developing a Tees wide clinical model.

- e. A locum radiologist was starting in the department on 14 October but they would require training in breast competencies which could take a year to complete.
4. Following the meeting the Chair of the Committee, Cllr Dryden, wrote to the South Tees Hospitals NHS Trust to clarify the position on post-operative care and it was confirmed that any post-operative follow up care would still be received at JCUH. However, it should be noted that patients requiring surveillance mammography would need to attend the Friarage Hospital site in the interim. The letter also confirmed that there is a free shuttle bus service that runs directly from the JCUH site to the Friarage Hospital site for patients who may have difficulty getting there.
5. As a result of the last meeting members of the committee had a number of areas which they wanted further information on, which included:
  - a. Information from front line staff as to how they are finding the current temporary arrangements;
  - b. Information to confirm that people being referred are still being seen in a timely manner;
  - c. An update on how long it is envisaged that the current temporary changes are going to be in place; and
  - d. An update on what is taking place to establish a longer-term solution including details of the possible Tees Wide Clinical Model, including how a hub and spoke approach would work in practice, should this be an option.
6. The following people have been invited to today's meeting to provide an update to Members
  - David Chadwick, Clinical Lead, South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
  - Sandra Donoghue, Managing Director, Surgical Services Centre, South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
  - Caroline Parnell, Director of Communications and Engagement, South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
  - Lynn Kirby, Assistant Director of Operations, North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Trust
  - Dr Matthew Trehwella, North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Trust
  - Craig Blair, Associate Director, Commissioning, South Tees Clinical Commissioning Group
  - Dr Janet Walker, Chair, South Tees Clinical Commissioning Group

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

7. That the Committee notes the information submitted at the meeting and agree if any further information is required.

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

No background papers were used in the preparation of this report

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