

NHS DERMATOLOGY SERVICES IN NOTTINGHAMSHIRE UPDATE TO THE JOINT NOTTINGHAM AND NOTTINGHAMSHIRE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

19 APRIL 2016

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide an update to the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC) on the dermatology services for Nottingham and Nottinghamshire.

2. BACKGROUND

NHS Rushcliffe Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) commissioned an independent review of dermatology services which was published in June 2015. A number of recommendations were made and have been progressed.

The report was circulated to all stakeholders and presented to the OSC.

3. PROGRESS

- NHS Rushcliffe CCG, Nottingham University Hospitals (NUH) and Circle continue to meet to ensure delivery of high quality dermatology services for the local population, although the frequency of the meetings have now scaled down proportionate to impact for patients;
- Health Education England in the East Midlands and the Clinical Senate have led meetings with providers, commissioners and the British Association of Dermatologists (BAD) to establish a community of practice and agree the priorities across the area. This has enabled workforce issues such as trainees numbers to be raised at a national level;
- Clinical and non-clinical representatives from Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, Lincolnshire and Leicestershire have all had opportunity to contribute to the discussions and a Clinical Senate survey will ascertain future meeting requirements;
- NHS Rushcliffe CCG, Circle and NUH have an agreed pathway of care with the University Hospitals of Leicester (UHL) to provide urgent inpatient care for a small number of Nottinghamshire patients. Estimates are that four patients have been transferred from Circle in the last year with the last patient in November 2015. It has not been possible to ascertain this via NUH reporting mechanisms, but the service is not aware of any patients, and neither service has issued raised in quality reporting. University Hospitals of Leicester believe they have seen more patients but as GP referrals as per the pathway;
- NHS Rushcliffe CCG continues to require the providers to monitor this;
- Healthwatch Nottingham and Healthwatch Nottinghamshire wrote out to their groups in January 2016 (Appendix 1). Only two county residents replied to the letter. The letter signposts patients and the public to use the established channels regarding any future concerns or issues they may have;

- Relevant reporting continues through the usual assurance meetings to NHS England and Trust Development Authority; and
- Health Education England fully understands the workforce issues and BAD will continue to raise these for dermatology, not only for the benefit of Nottingham but other areas nationally.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

OSC is asked to:

- **NOTE** progress;
- **NOTE** the letter from Healthwatch with signposting for patients and the public (Appendix 1).

Dermatology Services in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire

Dear Healthwatch Supporter

As you may know, concerns were raised with Healthwatch last year about the dermatology service operated by Circle (on the QMC site in Nottingham). Healthwatch heard these patient and public concerns and raised them with commissioners and also contributed to the Panel Review. In April a public/patient meeting was held with Healthwatch as part of the Dermatology review and in June a report was produced, with recommendations – this can be found here <http://www.healthwatchnottinghamshire.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/Final-Report-from-the-Independent-Review-Nottingham-Dermatology-Service.-4-June-2015.pdf>

We asked for an update from local NHS on these report recommendations, and were sent the following points of information.

- NHS Rushcliffe CCG continue to hold regular meetings with Nottingham University Hospitals (NUH) and Circle regarding dermatology services, which have enabled positive discussions about ways of working between the two organisations
- The Clinical Senate has held three events - two with clinicians from Nottingham, and one with clinicians and managers from Derby, Leicester, Nottingham and Mansfield and Lincolnshire to consider the future service and networking arrangements, with another event planned in February 2016. The East Midlands wide event involved the British Association of Dermatologists.
- The main outcome from the events was that colleagues do already network and will continue to meet to consider shared and broader issues. This includes promoting dermatology as an attractive career option and securing trainees to the area. The East Midlands event had Health Education England representatives and they addressed the issues regarding trainee numbers. It was agreed that this issue would be elevated for wider discussion, as this is a national as well as a local issue. Clinicians confirmed that they are already have, and continue to develop, new roles and ways for working, including training for GPs and nurses.
- As part of responding to the medium term recommendations the University Hospitals of Leicester is providing an urgent service for patients from NUH. Over the last nine months we understand that there have been two patients who have been transferred from Nottingham for an urgent dermatology inpatient review, and potentially another 4 patients who have gone there directly from their GP.
- NHS Rushcliffe CCG have reported monthly to NHS England and the NHS Trust Development Authority on progress against the recommendations. In addition updates have been provided to the Joint Scrutiny Committee. These updates will now be provided on request.

Current situation:



Healthwatch is pleased to see the local NHS organisations are working together, and have acted on the report recommendations. We hope this regional work will lead to benefits and improvements.



We want to ensure that service provision and patient experience are at the centre of dermatology provision in Nottingham, and are asking for feedback from local patients who have used the service in the past 9 months, since our last public meeting.



Healthwatch will ask for an update in 12 months' time and if any concerns are raised at that stage Healthwatch will ask Joint Scrutiny Committee to look again at these issues.



Circle and NUH both have PALS / Complaints teams/Patient Involvement Groups, if you are interested in getting involved further.



We are offering to arrange another public event to provide information on any outstanding issues, if there is interest in doing that. We would like to know numbers, and also what topics are important to ensure we have the right people and resources there. If you would be interested in attending, please let us know by Friday February 5th. Call us on 0115 963 5179.



Patients can of course contact Healthwatch at any time to share concerns on:

Healthwatch Nottinghamshire - 0115 963 5179
Healthwatch Nottingham - 0115 859 9510

Yours sincerely

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