

<b>HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>
<b>23 NOVEMBER 2017</b>
<b>INPATIENT DETOXIFICATION SERVICES AT THE WOODLANDS UNIT</b>
<b>REPORT OF HEAD OF LEGAL AND GOVERNANCE</b>

## **1 Purpose**

- 1.1 To consider proposals for the future of inpatient detoxification services for City residents.

## **2 Action required**

- 2.1 The Committee is asked to:

- a) decide whether it considers the closure of The Woodlands Unit as a provider of inpatient detoxification services is a 'substantial variation/ development of services' for Nottingham residents;
- b) consider the information available from the provider and commissioner regarding future provision of inpatient detoxification services for Nottingham residents; and
- c) either provide comments and/ or recommendations or decide to seek further information/ have further discussions before submitting comments and/ or recommendations on the proposals.

## **3 Background information**

- 3.1 The Woodlands Unit is run by Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust and located on the Highbury Hospital site. It provides short stay inpatient detoxification services for people with drug or alcohol dependence. Nottinghamshire Healthcare Trust has advised that the costs of providing inpatient services at The Woodlands exceed the income that the Trust receives for the services provided there and it cannot continue to run the current service model within available resources. Therefore it is reviewing the inpatient detoxification services that it provides at The Woodlands and the Trust Board has taken a decision to consult on the closure of The Woodlands Inpatient Detoxification Unit and look at developing a new service model.
- 3.2 A paper from the Trust is attached providing more information about The Woodlands Unit and the service currently provided there; provision for Nottingham City patients; the background and context for the review; and consultation and timescales for decision making. The Trust's Executive Director Local Partnerships and Consultant Addiction Psychiatrist will be attending the meeting to present this information and answer questions

about future provision of inpatient detoxification services for Nottingham patients.

3.3 Nottingham City Council currently commissions inpatient detoxification services from Nottinghamshire Healthcare Trust which are provided at The Woodlands Unit. A representative of the Council will be attending the meeting to discuss the implications of the potential closure of The Woodlands Unit and the impact on current and future Nottingham patients; and, if the Unit does close, intentions regarding future provision of inpatient detoxification services for people in Nottingham. A paper providing further information from a commissioning perspective will be circulated to follow.

3.4 Role of this Committee in relation to substantial developments or variations to services

Commissioners and providers of NHS and public health funded services are required to consult with the relevant local authority health scrutiny committee on proposals for a substantial development or variation of the health service in the area of that local authority. In guidance on planning and delivering service changes, NHS England recognises the importance of this role, stating “health scrutiny is a mechanism for ensuring the health and care system is genuinely accountable to patients and the public, and it brings local democratic legitimacy for service changes” (NHS England 2013). Regulations do not define ‘substantial development’ or ‘substantial variation’ but a key feature is that there is a major impact(s) experienced by service users, carers and/or the public. The Committee’s role is to determine whether it considers the proposal to be in the interests of local health services. It will need to consider:

- whether, as a statutory body, the relevant overview and scrutiny committee has been properly consulted within the consultation process;
- whether, in developing the proposals for service changes, the health body concerned has taken into account the public interest through appropriate patient and public involvement and consultation; and
- whether the proposal for change is in the interests of the local health service.

Following consultation, the Health Scrutiny Committee can make comments on the proposals. The Committee and the relevant health body should work together to try and resolve any concerns locally if at all possible. Ultimately, if this is not possible and the Committee concludes that consultation was not adequate or if it believes the proposals are not in the best interests of local health services then it can refer the decision to the Secretary of State for Health. This referral must be accompanied by an explanation of all steps taken locally to try and reach agreement in relation to the proposals.

#### **4 List of attached information**

- 4.1 Paper from Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust 'Review of Inpatient Detoxification Services at The Woodlands'

Paper from Nottingham City Council commissioners of inpatient detoxification services – to follow

#### **5 Background papers, other than published works or those disclosing exempt or confidential information**

- 5.1 None

#### **6 Published documents referred to in compiling this report**

- 6.1 NHS England (2013) 'Planning and Delivering Service Changes for Patients'

#### **7 Wards affected**

- 7.1 All

#### **8 Contact information**

- 8.1 Jane Garrard, Senior Governance Officer  
[jane.garrard@nottinghamcity.gov.uk](mailto:jane.garrard@nottinghamcity.gov.uk)  
0115 764315