

**Health Scrutiny Committee
16 September 2021**

Reconfiguration of Acute Stroke Services

Report of the Head of Legal and Governance

1 Purpose

- 1.1 To consider proposals for making changes to the configuration of acute stroke services provided by Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust (NUH) permanent.

2 Action required

- 2.1 The Committee is asked to:

- a) consider whether the proposal for permanent changes to acute stroke services constitute a substantial variation or development of service; and, if so
- b) consider:
 - i. whether, as a statutory body, the Committee has been properly consulted within the consultation process;
 - ii. whether, in developing the proposals for service changes, Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Clinical Commissioning Group has taken into account the public interest through appropriate patient and public involvement and consultation; and
 - iii. whether the proposal for permanent change is in the interests of local health services.

3 Background information

- 3.1 In July 2020 the Committee was informed that temporary changes to acute stroke services had been made as part of the response to the Covid pandemic. This was discussed with the Committee at its meeting on 17 September. There had been an urgent need to ensure that patients with Covid-19 could be treated separately from patients without Covid-19 and this was achieved by creating additional admission assessment capacity on the City Hospital campus. The most suitable area for this had been the Stroke Unit, which had been located on the respiratory corridor. Hyper acute stroke services were brought together on the Queens Medical Centre site, with the Hyper Acute Stroke Unit and Acute Stroke Ward moved from the City Hospital campus. The Committee heard that stroke rehabilitation services remained on the City Hospital campus. The Committee was told that this reconfiguration was already being considered prior to the Covid pandemic based on analysis that it would be clinically beneficial for the treatment of stroke, it aligns to regional and national plans for stroke services and supports the longer

term strategic direction for NUH as articulated through the Tomorrow's NUH programme. The move was accelerated on a temporary basis to support the response to the pandemic.

- 3.2 The Committee was informed that, at that point, analysis showed that the changes had been positive but that work was taking place to review the changes and whether it would be beneficial for them to be made permanent. Based on the information available to it, the Committee did not raise any concerns about the changes at that time but requested that, if commissioners decided to propose that changes are made permanent, the proposals along with plans for consultation and engagement are presented to the Committee for consideration as it is likely that the proposals would constitute a substantial development or variation of service.
- 3.3 The attached paper sets out details of the permanent changes proposed and the Divisional Director for Medicine, Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust will be attending the meeting to discuss the proposals, alongside representation from Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG).
- 3.4 If the proposals are considered to be a substantial variation or development of services, the Committee has a responsibility to consider:
 - whether, as a statutory body, it has been properly consulted within the process;
 - whether, in developing the proposals for service changes, the commissioners have 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 local health services.
- 3.5 The paper sets out the intention to now carry out engagement with service users, clinicians and associated health and care services on the proposals. The Committee may wish to discuss and comment on the plans for this engagement. Then, as suggested by the CCG, it is proposed that the findings of engagement and, where appropriate, how proposals have developed to take the public interest into account are presented to the April 2022 meeting so that the Committee can fulfil its statutory role (as outlined in paragraph 3.4).

4 List of attached information

- 4.1 Paper from Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Clinical Commissioning Group 'Changes to acute stroke services in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire'

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 'Changes to NHS services in response to Covid 19' report to and minutes of meeting of the Health Scrutiny Committee on 17 September 2020

7 Wards affected

- 7.1 All

8 Contact information

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