



Health Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee 26th July 2011

Report from the Director of Strategy, Partnerships and Improvement

For Action

Wards Affected:
ALL

Paediatric Services at Central Middlesex Hospital

1.0 Summary

- 1.1 NHS Brent and North West London Hospitals NHS Trust have asked to present a paper to the committee on plans for paediatric services at Central Middlesex Hospital. As members will be aware, CMH used to provide an overnight children's service (based on six beds) on Rainbow ward. Following a successful public consultation in early 2010, the local NHS established two consultant led Paediatric Assessment Units (PAUs) at both Northwick Park Hospital (NPH) and Central Middlesex Hospital (CMH) and centralised the inpatient (overnight) service at NPH. The aim of the reconfiguration was to reduce unnecessary admissions and improve the links with community child health services.
- 1.2 In summer 2010, NHS Brent commissioned Care UK to establish an urgent care centre (UCC) at CMH. The new unit opened on 28th March 2011 and provides a 24/7 GP model of care. As part of its service specification, the UCC is expected to see 75% of all children seen at CMH. In order to support this target, the UCC is staffed by a paediatric trained nurse on 24/7 basis. In addition all GPs and nurses are qualified in level 3 safeguarding.
- 1.3 The CMH UCC has been operational since 28th March 2011. Although it has only been open for three months, the impact on the PAU at CMH has been significant.
- 1.4 In January the average number of PAU attendances per week was 215. As illustrated in the table below this number has fallen to just 30.6 per week (4 April to 4 July 2011). This represents an 85.7% reduction in demand.
- 1.5 Total activity (over a 24 hour period) for the NWLH paediatric service (i.e. provided by PAU in hours and A&E out of hours) is also very low as the UCC has absorbed on average 87% of paediatric demand since opening.
- 1.6 As a result of the decline in use, the PAU is costing the local NHS a significant amount of money and there are issues relating to staffing – some staff are said to be

concerned about becoming “de-skilled” because of the low level of admissions to the PAU at CMH.

1.7 To resolve this, it is proposed that:

- The paediatric assessment function is absorbed into the Care UK UCC service;
- The NLWH PAU service is decommissioned at CMH; and
- The paediatric outpatient service and Brent Sickle Cell service would remain at CMH
- all assessment and day care beds will be centralised with the inpatient service at NPH.
- There would not be a specialist paediatric emergency service at CMH. Children who attend the UCC/A&E department would be either seen by a GP, ENP or A&E doctor.
- Patients requiring specialist opinion or overnight care would be transferred to Northwick Park by the Trust’s internal ambulance service.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Health Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee should:

- Consider the report provided on the proposals for paediatric services at Central Middlesex Hospital and question officers on the plans.
- Decide whether the proposed changes constitute a significant variation in service which would require a formal NHS consultation with stakeholders following the industry standard, 12 week, full public consultation.

Background Papers:

Paediatric Services at Central Middlesex Hospital – a report from NHS Brent and Harrow and North West London NHS Hospitals Trust

Contact Officers:

Phil Newby, Director of Strategy, Partnerships and Improvement
Email - Phil.newby@brent.gov.uk
Tel - 020 8937 1032

Andrew Davies, Policy and Performance Officer
Email – Andrew.davies@brent.gov.uk
Tel – 020 8937 1609