



Health Select Committee
20th October 2009

**Report from the Director of
Policy & Regeneration**

For Action

Wards Affected:
ALL

**The provision of shared care services for children
with cancer – proposed changes to service**

1.0 Summary

- 1.1 Health Select Committee has been asked to consider the attached briefing on the provision of shared care services for children with cancer in North West London. London Specialised Commissioners, who lead on commissioning cancer services for children and young people, have confirmed that two cancer centres, Great Ormond Street Hospital and University College Hospital, will continue to care for all North West London children and teenagers with cancer.
- 1.2 The proposals for service change affect other hospitals that provide “shared care services” with these cancer centres. These hospitals which offer paediatric oncology shared care are called “POSCUs”. Shared care covers certain drug treatments for cancer and care for the side effects of treatment which can be given in the children’s department of some District General Hospitals or by community nurses at home. In North West London there are about 56 new children a year diagnosed with cancer and 6 hospitals currently offer shared care across the 8 Boroughs. This includes Northwick Park Hospital. Each Borough also has community teams who can support patients with cancer.
- 1.3 Changes in service are being proposed as national guidance on children’s cancer requires cancer centres, like Great Ormond Street Hospital, to provide more intensive support to shared care hospitals than is currently the case. Shared care hospitals need to have a team of staff with special training in cancer care and trained staff within Accident & Emergency Departments.

Children's wards need to have trained staff available during the day and at night.

- 1.4 The overall model for the North West London Cancer Network has been discussed by professionals working within the service, both at PTC and POSCU levels as well as with the Cancer Network and with the commissioners of the service. This produced a majority agreement that shared care should be provided at 3 rather than 6 hospitals. Following this agreement each hospital already providing POSCU services was asked to submit an expression of interest to contribute to the provision of a shared care service for North West London. A decision was based on reviewing the shared care service and its linked children's and cancer services. This included looking at the critical mass of patients, proposed patient flows, organisation of the service, clinical staffing and the facilities for patients against the national standards and patient access for each site.
- 1.5 The proposed changes affect the North West London Hospitals Trust, which is currently a shared care provider, but under the proposals, will no longer carry out this role. Appendix 1 has more detail on the proposals.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 Health Select Committee is recommended to consider the briefing paper attached at appendix 1 and decide whether the proposed changes to the provision of shared care services for children with cancer amount to a substantial variation in service that should be subject to formal consultation.

3.0 Financial Implications

- 3.1 None

4.0 Legal Implications

- 4.1 None

5.0 Diversity Implications

- 5.1 None

6.0 Staffing/Accommodation Implications (if appropriate)

- 6.1 None

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