

MEETING:	OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
DATE:	17 OCTOBER 2011
TITLE OF REPORT:	RECONFIGURATION OF MAJOR TRAUMA SERVICES IN THE WEST MIDLANDS
REPORT BY:	ASSISTANT DIRECTOR LAW GOVERNANCE AND RESILIENCE

CLASSIFICATION: Open

Wards Affected

County-wide

Purpose

To authorise a response accepting that a formal period of engagement (as opposed to a formal consultation period) be undertaken with key stakeholders across the region on the preferred option of 3 Major Trauma Centres for the West Midlands.

Recommendation(s)

THAT: a response be authorised accepting a formal period of engagement (as opposed to a formal consultation period) be undertaken with key stakeholders across the region on the preferred option of 3 Major Trauma Centres for the West Midlands.

Key Points Summary

- There are proposals to reconfigure the Major Trauma Care System in the West Midlands.
- A preferred option has been identified: Three trauma networks – with Major Trauma Centres at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham, the University Hospital of North Staffordshire and University Hospital Coventry and Warwickshire.
- NHS bodies are required to consult Overview and Scrutiny Committees on any proposals for substantial variations or developments of health services. The expectation is that full consultations should last a minimum of 12 weeks. Overview and Scrutiny Committees can, however, agree a different timetable for consultation with NHS Bodies.
- West Midlands NHS specialised Commissioning Team are seeking confirmation **by 30 October 2011** at the latest that the Overview and Scrutiny Committees in the West Midlands will agree to a formal period of engagement (some 7 weeks) (as opposed to a formal consultation period to be undertaken with key stakeholders across the Region on the preferred option of 3 Major Trauma Centres for the West Midlands).

Further information on the subject of this report is available from
Tim Brown (Committee Manager (Scrutiny) on 01432 260239

Alternative Options

- 1 The Committee could choose to request that NHS Herefordshire undertake a formal consultation exercise on the proposals.

Introduction and Background

- 2 It is a national requirement in the NHS Operating Framework in England 2011/12 that all regions should be moving trauma service provision into regional trauma systems to make significant improvements in the clinical outcomes for major trauma patients. All regions are now beginning to implement plans for trauma care systems which need to be in place by the end of March 2012.
- 3 A report made to the NHS Herefordshire (Primary Care Trust Board) setting out the detail of what is proposed and the reason for it is attached (Appendix 1).
- 4 A preferred option has been identified: Three trauma networks – with Major Trauma Centres at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham, the University Hospital of North Staffordshire and University Hospital Coventry and Warwickshire.
- 5 NHS bodies are required to consult Overview and Scrutiny Committees on any proposals for substantial variations or developments of health services. The expectation is that full consultations should last a minimum of 12 weeks. Overview and Scrutiny Committees can, however, agree a different timetable for consultation with NHS Bodies.
- 6 West Midlands NHS specialised Commissioning Team are seeking confirmation **by 30 October 2011** at the latest that the Overview and Scrutiny Committees in the West Midlands will agree to a formal period of engagement (as opposed to a formal consultation period to be undertaken with key stakeholders across the Region on the preferred option of 3 Major Trauma Centres for the West Midlands. A copy of their letter is attached (Appendix 2).

Key Considerations

- 7 At a meeting of the Regional Health Overview and Scrutiny Committees on 20 September the consensus was that a formal consultation period of 3 months was not required and that a formal period of engagement would be acceptable.
- 8 It is proposed that the formal period of engagement would run for a 6 – 8 week period between 1st November – 20th December 2011. The PCTs propose to use local events, patient groups and other forums already in place to reach as many people as possible and will report back at the end of the engagement period, noting number of people at events and their views highlighting any concerns.
- 9 The Interim Director of Public Health comments that the proposals do need to be carefully considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and a formal response to them submitted. However, she considers that, whilst there are some advantages to a formal consultation, the proposed period of formal engagement would allow sufficient time for that formal response to be made.
- 10 It is therefore proposed that a response be authorised accepting a formal period of engagement (as opposed to a formal consultation period).

Community Impact

- 11 This needs to be considered during the proposed period of formal engagement on the preferred option.

Financial Implications

- 12 None for the Council.

Legal Implications

- 13 The Local Authority (Overview and Scrutiny Committees Health Scrutiny Functions Regulations) provide that Committees shall be consulted on a substantial variation or substantial development. The Committees have discretion as to a timetable for this consultation.

Risk Management

- 14 It is not considered that there is a risk in opting for a period of formal engagement rather than a formal 12 week consultation.

Consultees

- 15 Health Overview and Scrutiny Committees within the West Midlands Region and the Interim Director of Public Health, Herefordshire Public Services.

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Report to NHS Herefordshire Board – Proposal for Reconfiguration of Major Trauma Services (NHS West Midlands) – 28 September 2011

Appendix 2 Letter to Chairmen of Health Overview and Scrutiny Committees from West Midlands Specialised Commissioning Team – 5 October 2011

Background Papers

None identified.