

5<sup>th</sup> October 2011

For the attention of the Chair  
Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee  
West Midlands Region

Dear HOSC Chair

### **Introducing a Trauma Care System across the West Midlands**

As you are aware the NHS in the West Midlands is proposing to transform the care people receive when they suffer major trauma by introducing an improved system of care across the region. The creation of new trauma care networks will help patients by increasing survival rates, speeding up recovery times and reducing disability from injury. The review is considering four options to improve trauma care across the West Midlands:

- Option 1      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.
  
- Option 2      Two trauma networks with Major Trauma Centres - one at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham and one at the University Hospital of North Staffordshire.
  
- Option 3      Two trauma networks with Major Trauma Centres - one at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham and one at the University Hospital Coventry and Warwickshire.
  
- Option 4      One trauma networks with Major Trauma Centre at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham

The Birmingham Children's Hospital would be the West Midlands' Major Trauma Centre for Children. In addition all hospitals within the region have been invited to submit their interest in becoming a trauma unit, dependent on meeting the required specification.

I am pleased to inform you that following consideration of the business case and the option appraisal at the Trauma Project Board on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2011, the project board will be recommending to the West Midlands Strategic Commissioning Group (WMSCG) the preferred option of the 3 adult and 1 paediatric trauma networks for the West Midlands Trauma Care system (option 1). This decision also means that there will be no change to the pathway for those patients with major trauma injuries who require neurosurgery or cardiothoracic surgery services as these are provided by the three specialist centres in option 1. The WMSCG, who have been asked to coordinate the review on behalf of the NHS in the West Midlands, are scheduled to meet on 31<sup>st</sup> October to consider and confirm their approval of the recommended preferred option.

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As a result of the decision to go for the 3 centre option, on behalf of the NHS in the West Midlands, I would like to ask you to confirm that you are happy for 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. My understanding is that a process of engagement was supported by the regional HOSC at their meeting in September.

I do hope that, on behalf of your HOSC, you are able to confirm your support and look forward to receiving your response by 30th October 2011 at the latest please in order for us to adjust our programme timetables accordingly and ensure that the important deadline of implementation of the trauma care system commences no later than the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2012 so we can ensure these important benefits are delivered for patients affected by a major trauma.

If you have any queries or require any additional information please feel free to contact Rachel O'Connor or a member of the trauma project team on 0121 695 2369.

Yours sincerely



**Eamonn Kelly**  
Co Chair



**Dr Anand Chitnis**  
Co Chair

**Cc** Rachel O'Connor Project Lead – Trauma Review

**Enc:** Trauma Care Network Newsletter