

DEVELOPMENT OF STROKE SERVICES IN HEREFORDSHIRE

Report By: Director of Children's Services

Wards Affected

County-wide

Purpose

1. To consider proposals for the development of stroke services in Herefordshire.

Financial implications

2. None identified.

Background

3. The Primary Care Trust (PCT) commissioned a review of Stroke Service Provision in the autumn of 2005. A consultation paper was then developed on potential ways of improving Stroke Services within current resources.
4. The following documents prepared by the PCT are appended:
 - Report to Hillside Section 31 Board – 13th March 2006 – Proposal for the Development of Stroke services in Herefordshire (Appendix - Herefordshire Health and Social Care Community – Final Document March 2006 – Stroke Services Development in Herefordshire).
 - Report to Herefordshire Primary Care Trust Provider Committee – 15 March 2006 (Appendix - Action Plan – Stroke Services – March 06).
5. The report setting out the proposal for the development of stroke services was sent to the Chairman of the Committee by the Primary Care Trust, noting the role of this Scrutiny Committee in determining whether the proposal represented a substantial development or substantial variation of service upon which the Committee and others should be formally consulted.
6. The Department of Health's (DH) guidance on the overview and scrutiny of Health states that, as provided for in the Local Authority (Overview and Scrutiny Committees Health Scrutiny Functions) Regulations 2002, "Each local NHS body has a duty to consult the local overview and scrutiny committee(s) on any proposals it may have under consideration for any substantial development of the health service in the area of the committees' local authorities or any proposal to make any substantial variation in the provision of such service(s)." There are some exemptions, but in general terms where a substantial variation is proposed the Scrutiny Committee must be consulted.

7. The Regulations do not define how the word “substantial” is to be interpreted. The guidance states that
- “Local NHS bodies should aim to reach a local understanding or definition with their overview and scrutiny committee(s). This should be informed by discussions with other key stakeholders including patients’ forums.*
- In considering whether the proposal is substantial, NHS bodies, committees and stakeholders should consider generally the impact of the change upon patients, carers and the public who use or have the potential to use the service.*
- More specifically they should take into account...changes in accessibility of services.... impact of the proposal on the wider community...., patients affected..., and methods of service delivery...”.*
8. The Chairman has expressed his view that there is much to be gained from the approach being proposed in developing stroke rehabilitation services, utilising current beds more effectively. He has, however, requested that the matter is formally considered by the Committee.
9. The Committee is asked to:
- consider whether it supports the proposals for the development of stroke services
 - consider whether it thinks the proposals should be subject to a formal consultation process.
10. Trish Jay, the PCT’s Director of Clinical Development and Lead Executive Nurse will be at the meeting to present the proposals and answer questions.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

- None