

HOSC/34/11

Committee Health Overview and Scrutiny

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INTEGRATION OF VASCULAR SERVICES FOR NORTH EAST ESSEX

Report by Graham Redgwell, Secretary to the Committee

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Introductory note by Secretary

The SHA is currently leading work on proposals to review service provision across the region. Research has shown that mortality rates for vascular disease, and specifically Abdominal Aortic Aneurisms, in the UK are much higher than in the USA or continental Europe. As a result, a National Screening Programme is being introduced, with all men over the age of 65 receiving screening.

The research also showed the need for Designated Surgical Centres for both elective and emergency surgery. This stance is supported by the National Vascular Society (the professional body). A sifting process of Hospitals across the region has been undertaken, with a level of 100 procedures having been carried out over the last three years being the criterion for further consideration. Ten of the region's hospitals meet this level. A second sifting, looking at staff rotas and workforce issues, is being undertaken and several Hospitals will meet this criterion also. Where Hospitals do not meet this level, or wish to work together, there will be the opportunity for that, and the Colchester and Ipswich clinicians are putting forward proposals to the Essex and Suffolk HOSCs to concentrate work in their area at Colchester General Hospital.

The Designated Surgical Centres will deal with operations and (probably) one follow up appointment, with all other appointments being held at the patient's local hospital. Clinicians working at those local hospitals will be involved in the rota of surgeons, so can follow their patient through the full process.

The Regional Health Chairs Forum is aware of these developments and supports the stance that the issues can best be discussed and determined locally.

Members views are sought on the proposal for north east Essex, the Colne Valley and east Suffolk, which are set out in the attached document. A representative from the PCT will be present to respond to points made by Members.

Proposals for other parts of the county will be presented as and when they appear.
