

## HOSC/26/11

**Committee** Health Overview and Scrutiny

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### **EAST OF ENGLAND REGIONAL HEALTH CHAIRS FORUM**

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The Forum (which comprises the Chairs of the 11 HOSCs in the region) met on 10 June 2011. As usual, Essex was the host authority and the meeting was chaired by Councillor Butland.

The main items discussed were as follows:-

#### **National legislation update**

The Forum discussed the (then) current position. It was acknowledged that there were still a number of uncertainties given that the Government's listening exercise had not yet reported (subsequently announced on 13 June 2011 – Secretary).

#### **Cancer services for the 17 to 24 age group**

(Councillor Butland declared a personal interest in this matter given his involvement with the East Anglian Children's Hospice.)

A national consultation on services for the 17 to 24 age group had closed in April and it was intended that 17 and 18 years olds will have a choice between referral to either a paediatric or an adult unit, whilst the 19 to 24 age group will be referred to adult units.

National measures were now being drawn up, and would be published later in the year. This would probably be under the auspices of the National Commissioning Board. All SCGs across the country were working together on this in the interim period. The Forum noted the likely structure of specialist commissioning arrangements from 2012 onwards.

It was confirmed that hospices would be involved as stakeholders in the preparation of the national measures.

## **Neo natal services**

The Essex, Southend and Thurrock HOSCs have formed a Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee to monitor progress on the decisions made in respect of that area in 2009.

Cambridgeshire, Norfolk and Suffolk HOSCs are working with the Specialist Commissioning Group (SCG) to move forward the proposals for those areas.

## **Major Trauma services**

The proposals reported to the Forum previously to centralise services at Addenbrookes Hospital had been agreed by the SCG Board on 23 May and would be given final approval by the Addenbrookes Board shortly.

## **Children's Congenital Heart services – Safe and Sustainable exercise**

This is a national consultation. A judicial review has been instituted by a hospital in respect of the process used and its outcome is awaited.

The East of England has no specialist unit in its area. However, an event for local stakeholders had been held in Cambridge recently. Representatives of the Royal Brompton Hospital had been present in some numbers and had argued strongly its case for being one of the national centres.

No decisions are expected until November 2011 at the earliest.

## **Liver Colorectal Cancers**

Patients in the region needing specialist treatment currently use one of five centres – Addenbrookes, Ipswich or Norwich plus either Leicester or Basingstoke if either is more convenient. Residents in the south of the region can also access the Mount Vernon Cancer Network (usually the Royal Free Hospital) in London.

The region is not currently Improving Outcomes Guidance (IOG) compliant and a steering group of advisers and professionals, a number from outside the region, has been set up to review future provision.

It was confirmed that:

- No decisions have been made on where the regional centre will be based. Media reports indication that a particular hospital has been chosen are not correct.
- To be IOG compliant, only one centre can be provided in the region. Access to the out of region facilities at Leicester and Basingstoke would no longer be possible.
- The SCG is aware of concerns about the process expressed by clinicians at the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital.

- Patients should attend the specialist unit only for surgery and a follow up visit, with all other treatment taking place at local hospitals.
- Having one specialist unit should enable the number of operations in a year to double from 100 to 200.

In the light of the review and discussions with local Trusts, a service specification will be drawn up and expressions of interest to be the service provider sought. Should more than one provider declare an interest, a formal consultation will be required.

No decision is expected until late 2011/ early 2012.

The next Forum meeting will be held in October.

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