

New Congenital Heart Disease Review - briefing for local authorities

30 October 2013

Overview

This briefing has been created to provide local authorities with information on the current NHS review of congenital heart services for children and adults in England. The review is being led by NHS England, and this briefing contains information on the principles behind the review, the process so far and engagement in the coming months.

New Congenital Heart Disease Review

As of 1 April 2013, NHS England became the commissioner of specialised services including congenital heart services for children and adults. Following the suspension of the Safe and Sustainable review by the Secretary of State for Health in June 2013, NHS England established the new Congenital Heart Disease review to consider the whole lifetime pathway of care for people with congenital heart disease.

The aim of this review is to ensure that services for people with congenital heart disease are provided in a way that achieves the highest possible quality within the available resources. This is practice aims to create the environment for:

- the best outcomes for all patients, not just lowest mortality but reduced disability and improved opportunities for survivors to lead better lives
- tackling variation, so that services across the country consistently meet demanding performance standards and are able to offer resilient 24/7 care
- great patient experience, which includes how information is provided to patients and their families and takes into consideration access and support for families when they have to be away from home.

What engagement is taking place?

The review is in early stages and we are keen to ensure that we hear your views from the outset. We know that the review will cover congenital heart services for children and adults, however the final decision on the full scope of the review is yet to be taken. There are no predetermined outcomes.

We want any changes to the current provision of services, as well as the decision-making process, to have strong support among clinicians, patients and their families, national and local charities, local authorities including overview and scrutiny committees, and others.

We have already held meetings with national patient groups and charities, local charities and patient groups, national clinical organisations, as well as clinicians from surgical centres. The notes from each meeting can be found here:

<http://www.england.nhs.uk/ourwork/qual-clin-lead/chd/meetings/>

We are now beginning our engagement with the local government and we would like to offer all local authorities an opportunity to contribute to the review and meet us so that we can hear from you your concerns and suggestions.

In the first instance, we have offered to meet with the overview and scrutiny committees that referred the Safe and Sustainable decision to the Secretary of State for Health, these include the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for Lincolnshire; Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, and the Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee for Yorkshire and the Humber.

What are we engaging on?

We will want to hear from you on the following issues:

- the new Congenital Heart Disease review and our proposed approach
- lessons learned from the earlier work
- local governments' views and concerns
- how best to work with local government.

Governance

The senior responsible officer for the review appointed by the Board of NHS England is Bill McCarthy, National Director of Policy. John Holden, Director of System Policy co-ordinates the work within NHS England and ensures the full involvement of the many different stakeholders. Michael Wilson is the Programme Director for the review.

NHS England is currently developing a comprehensive governance structure that will ensure that local and national charities, professional organisations, clinicians from current providers of children's and adult congenital heart surgery and cardiology units and hospital leaders all have an opportunity to influence the process.

Further information

Other documents you may wish to read include:

- Board paper - NHS England
<http://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/180713-item13.pdf>
- New Congenital Heart Disease review website
<http://www.england.nhs.uk/ourwork/qual-clin-lead/chd/>
- Blogs written by John Holden, Director of System Policy at NHS England
<http://www.england.nhs.uk/publications/blogs/john-holden/>

If you wish to contribute to the review and make contact with us, the details are:

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