

Item 8: Proposed changes to Congenital Heart Disease Services

By: Kay Goldsmith, Scrutiny Research Officer

To: Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 23 July 2019

Subject: Proposed changes to Congenital Heart Disease services in London

Summary: This report invites the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee to consider the information provided by NHS England.

It provides background information which may prove useful to Members in their assessment of whether the change constitutes a substantial variation of service.

1. Introduction

- (a) Congenital Heart Disease (CHD) is a birth anomaly and affects between 5 and 9 in every 1,000 babies born in the UK. Not all babies require surgery, but when it is needed it can be both lifesaving and life changing. However, it is likely the condition will be lifelong, and patients will require support and care throughout their lives.¹
- (b) NHS England published CHD standard and service specifications in April 2016, which providers must meet. Each standard had a timetable for implementation, ranging from immediate to within 5 years.²
- (c) The Royal Brompton & Harefield NHS Foundation Trust is the largest specialist heart and lung centre in the UK and among the largest in Europe.³ Its CHD service for children is one of the largest in the UK and treats patients from both the UK and around the world.⁴

2. Background

- (a) The NHS England Board considered a report about future commissioning arrangements for Congenital Heart Disease Services for Adults and Children in November 2017, which outlined proposals relating to the Royal Brompton and Harefield NHS Foundation Trust.⁵

¹ NHS England Board meeting paper (30 Nov 2017) Item 6 - Congenital Heart Disease Services for Adults and Children: Future Commissioning Arrangements, <https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/06-pb-30-11-2017-congenital-heart-disease-services.pdf>

² NHS England (2016) Congenital Heart Disease Standards & Specifications, <https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/Congenital-heart-disease-standards-and-specifications.pdf>

³ Royal Brompton & Harefield NHS FT (2019) <https://www.rbht.nhs.uk>

⁴ Royal Brompton & Harefield NHS FT (2019) <https://www.rbht.nhs.uk/our-services/paediatrics/congenital-heart-disease-service-for-children>

⁵ NHS England Board meeting paper (30 Nov 2017) Item 6 - Congenital Heart Disease Services for Adults and Children: Future Commissioning Arrangements, p3, <https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/06-pb-30-11-2017-congenital-heart-disease-services.pdf>

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- (b) Despite CHD services in England being very good, NHS England believed there was room for improvement as well as the opportunity for adjustments that would ensure services were able to rapidly respond to future clinical, technological and scientific advances.⁶
- (c) Information was received in April 2019 about future changes to Congenital Heart Disease services provided in London. This has been brought to the attention of the Kent HOSC because some patients that access the service are Kent residents. A number of HOSCs are being consulted, and the Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea are forming a JHOSC.

3. Potential Substantial Variation of Service

- (a) The Committee is asked to review whether the proposals to move CHD services from Royal Brompton Hospital's Chelsea site constitute a substantial variation of service.
- (b) Where the Committee deems the proposed changes as not being substantial, this shall not prevent the HOSC from reviewing the proposed changes at its discretion and making reports and recommendations to the NHS.

4. Recommendation

If the proposed change to CHD Services is *substantial*:

RECOMMENDED that:

- (a) the Committee deems proposed changes to CHD services to be a substantial variation of service.
- (b) NHS England be invited to attend this Committee and present an update at an appropriate meeting once the timescale has been confirmed.

If the proposed change to CHD Services is *not substantial*:

RECOMMENDED that:

- (a) the Committee does not deem the proposed changes to CHD Services to be a substantial variation of service.
- (b) the report be noted.

⁶ Ibid (p4)

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Additional information

Royal Brompton Hospital (Chelsea site) is around 3.4 miles from Guy's and St Thomas' Hospital in Westminster.



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