

Item 6: Specialist Children's Cancer Services

By: Kay Goldsmith, Scrutiny Research Officer

To: Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 31 January 2023

Subject: Specialist Children's Cancer Services

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.

1) Introduction

- a) In late November 2022, Chris Streater, Regional Medical Director and Janet Meek, Regional Director of Direct Commissioning at NHS England wrote to the Chair of HOSC regarding changes to children's specialist cancer services.
- b) They have asked to present to the Committee today to explain the background and set out the proposals.

2) Potential Substantial variation of service

- a) The Committee is asked to review whether this proposal constitutes a substantial variation of service. There are no formal criteria setting out what a substantial variation of service is, and it is down to the Committee to decide.
- b) Where the Committee deems the proposed changes as not being substantial, this shall not prevent it from reviewing the proposed changes at its discretion and making reports and recommendations to the NHS.
- c) Where the Committee deems the proposed changes as being substantial, the NHS must consult with it prior to a final decision being made, though the NHS always remains the decision maker.
- d) Once the final decision has been reported to HOSC, the Committee shall decide if it supports the decision, does not support the decision, and/or provide comment on it. Where it does not support the decision, the Committee can refer it to the Secretary of State.
- e) The commissioned services are accessed by patients across South London and South East England, therefore NHS England will be presenting the changes to a number of health overview and scrutiny committees. If more than one committee determines the changes as substantial, then it will be necessary to establish a Joint HOSC.

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3. Recommendation

If the proposals relating to children's cancer services are deemed substantial:

RECOMMENDED that:

- (a) the Committee deems that proposed changes to children's cancer services are a substantial variation of service.
- (b) NHS representatives be invited to attend this Committee and present an update at an appropriate time.

If the proposals relating to children's cancer services are deemed not substantial:

RECOMMENDED that:

- (a) the Committee deems that proposed changes to children's cancer services are not a substantial variation of service.
- (b) NHS representatives be invited to attend this Committee and present an update at an appropriate time.

Background Documents

None.

Contact Details

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