

Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals

Briefing Note for Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Major Trauma Centre & Hospital Site Reconfiguration

From 2 April 2012, following a comprehensive major trauma designation process led by NHS South of England, the Royal Sussex County Hospital (RSCH) in Brighton was designated as the regional major trauma centre (MTC) for Sussex providing 24/7 enhanced specialist care for the most seriously injured patients within the Sussex Trauma Network.

BSUH made significant financial investment in the MTC, with the support of local and specialist commissioners, equating to £6m revenue and £3m capital; this included the provision of 24/7 consultant presence in the Emergency Department, access to a designated 24/7 major trauma theatre, a new CT scanner, a dedicated major trauma ward and a multi-disciplinary major trauma workforce.

National service specification for major trauma

In 2013 the national specialised service specification for major trauma was published by the NHS Commissioning Board. Following a self-assessment process and discussions with the Surrey and Sussex Local Area team, in February 2013 BSUH entered into a derogation process for major trauma as there is currently no co-located neuro-trauma service at the MTC, i.e. physically located at the RSCH.

Derogation is a time limited agreement whereby one or more contractual standards or requirements within the national service specification will not be in place during the contractual period.

Derogation will only be agreed when assurance has been provided that alternative service arrangements are in place that will ensure patient safety and acceptable quality standards of care. Derogation is a time limited process and will only be agreed if it can be demonstrated that there is a plan to achieve compliance within an agreed period of time. The MTC is compliant with all other aspects of the national service specification and has demonstrated it has robust plans in place for implementing interventional radiology and burns and plastics services at the MTC.

Until such time as a full neuro-trauma service is implemented at the MTC in Brighton, the pre-existing head injury pathways to Hurstwood Park Neurosciences Centre (HPNC) will be maintained and, for certain injury patterns, pre-hospital providers (South East Coast Ambulance and Kent, Surrey and Sussex Air Ambulance) have agreed protocols to transport the small number of patients affected to other MTC's at the discretion of their senior clinical controllers. As recommended following the MTC designation process an audit of patients with moderate and severe head injuries attending the MTC, HPNC and other Trauma Units is being undertaken whilst interim bypass arrangements are in place.

Traumatic Head Injury Service

In August 2013 the Clinical Director (Specialised Services) for NHS England was invited to visit to the hospital to help identify a way forward to ensure compliance and in his subsequent report recommended the immediate transfer of all emergency and elective neurosurgery from Hurstwood Park Neurological Centre (HPNC) to RSCH and the development of an integrated spinal service for the Trust.

In December 2013 following detailed work by clinical and managerial leads across the organisation, the BSUH Board of Directors approved plans to move the elective and

emergency neurosurgery service HPNC to RSCH and considerable planning is underway to enable the move to RSCH to be completed by August 2014. This will include capital investment to convert the former day surgery unit at RSCH into a neurosurgery unit with co-location of key clinical services including bi planar angiography, CT scanning, MRI, neurosurgery theatres and a dedicated neurosurgery ward. Additional critical care beds will also be created at both RSCH and the Princess Royal Hospital.

The neurology department, neurosurgery outpatients and other support services including neuropsychology and neurophysiology will continue to be based at HPNC and will provided outreach services as required.

The new location for neurosurgery and its support services are interim until such time as a fully integrated new neurosciences unit is established within the 3Ts hospital re-development.

Site Reconfiguration Programme

A programme of work has been established (“the Site Reconfiguration Programme”) to move planned trauma and orthopaedics and the urology service from the RSCH site to the Princess Royal Hospital site in the summer of 2014. It is proposed to maintain a daily urology outpatient service at RSCH for Brighton & Hove patients.

These service moves to PRH will release beds and theatre capacity on the RSCH site to accommodate neurosurgery as well as creating other benefits and efficiencies for these services.

An options appraisal is to be undertaken in early 2014 by clinical and managerial leads on the implementation of a single pathway for fractured neck of femur patients; discussions have also taken place with local commissioners and the local area team and the emerging preferred location for a single site service is PRH.

Workforce consultation

A number of staff within neurosurgery, urology, and trauma and orthopaedics will be affected by the site reconfiguration programme including medical staff, nursing and theatre staff, allied health professionals and administrative staff. An informal consultation process with staff commenced in November 2013 and a formal consultation process will start early in 2014.

Public consultation has already been undertaken on the relocation of neurosurgery to RSCH as part of the development of the 3Ts outline business case. As a relatively low number of patients are affected by the urology and trauma and orthopaedic service moves and as only parts of the service are moving further discussions on the proposed changes will take place with HOSC and local commissioners.

Sussex Operational Delivery Network for Major Trauma

New management arrangements have been put in place to support the development of the MTC including the appointment of a new Clinical Lead for major trauma.

In November 2013 funding was agreed by the Surrey and Sussex Local Area Team to enable the MTC at Brighton to host the Sussex Operational Delivery Network (ODN) for Major Trauma. The ODN will focus on coordinating patient pathways between trauma providers across Sussex to ensure access to specialist support and expertise. The major trauma ODN for Sussex will include representation from senior clinicians and managers from all the providers of major trauma services across Sussex including trauma units

(Hastings Hospital, Worthing Hospital and Chichester Hospital), South East Coast Ambulance Service and the Air Ambulance Service.

Appointments are being made to new clinical and management/administration positions to support the new Sussex Major Trauma ODN and the inaugural meeting has been scheduled for 4 February 2014.

MTC External Peer Review

Regional Trauma Networks (RTNs) went live across England in April 2012. A peer review process has been established to monitor implementation of trauma networks and MTCs, to demonstrate where further work is required, and to share areas of best practice and learning. The process is led by trauma clinicians from across the trauma networks and reviews are based on submission of evidence and a panel visit.

The last external peer review of the MTC and Sussex Trauma Network was undertaken in March 2013 and the key recommendations focussed on the head injury pathway, interventional radiology (IR), plastic surgery presence and cover, and development of the helipad. Progress has been made in developing an IR service for major trauma and a new hybrid IR theatre is due to be ready by June 2104; a new consultant in ortho-plastics appointment, in conjunction with Queen Victoria Hospital, East Grinstead, is due to be advertised in early 2014. The move of neurosurgery from HPNC to RSCH by August 2014 will address the head injury pathway issue.

The next external peer review of the MTC and Trauma ODN has been scheduled for 6 March 2014.

MTC performance

During the first twenty months the MTC has provided an enhanced service to seriously injured patients across Sussex and beyond. This has been demonstrated in the Major Trauma Performance Dashboard published nationally each quarter by the national trauma and Audit Research Network (TARN). TARN clinical reports have demonstrated that better clinical outcomes have been achieved since go-live in April 2012, with more survivors of major trauma than expected.

In November 2013 TARN published the MTC performance dashboard for 2013/14 Q2 which shows that across the 13 measures the MTC is performing well, for example:

- § The proportion of patients who meet NICE head injury guidelines and receive a CT scan within 60 minutes of arrival is 100%
- § 100% of patients are administered Tranexamic acid within 3 hours of incident (new performance measure)

The development of the MTC is significant strategic initiative for the Trust and considerable work is underway to ensure that the MTC achieves compliance against the national service specification for major trauma within the prescribed timescale.

The Trust is committed to working with commissioners, providers and patients to ensure the delivery of safe and effective major trauma services across the whole patient pathway and help secure the best outcome for patients.

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