

## **NHS Midlands and East Stroke Review**

### **Update for Essex, Southend and Thurrock Health Overview and Scrutiny Committees (HOSCs)**

**21 January 2013**

#### **Summary**

We have been in contact with your Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee since July of last year to keep members informed about a review of stroke services that is underway across the Midlands and East region.

The current position is that options are being considered for Essex stroke services by each of the seven Clinical Commissioning Groups that are set to take over from primary care trusts this year, as part of the NHS reforms.

Once all seven CCGs have agreed on a preferred strategy for Essex, there will be a process of public consultation across the county.

This paper provides a short recap and update on the process so far.

#### **Background**

- The Midlands and East Stroke Review is setting out to realise a regional drive to secure for the future excellent stroke care, consistently across the region.
- Performance across the region is variable and we know from national and international clinical evidence that there is scope to improve.
- Stroke services in Essex are generally performing well, in some ways among the best in the region. One indicator, the number of people spending 90% of their time on a specialist stroke unit, for example, is above the national target for all five acute hospitals in Essex.
- However, there are more ways in which we can excel in this high priority area of healthcare. The review that we are undertaking in Essex seeks to achieve this ambition with investment in a higher level of service.

## The nature of the review

- The review is looking at the entire pathway of stroke care from prevention, hospital services, rehabilitation and quality of life following a stroke. We know from clinical evidence that the quicker we can respond with specialist care, the greater the chances of recovery following a stroke. We are also aiming to ensure the best possible patient experience throughout the patient journey.
- While all services involved in the stroke pathway are important, such as; GP services, community nursing teams, rehabilitation services, specialist hospital services and ambulance; a major feature of better stroke care is the availability of a higher level of acute hospital services – so-called *hyper acute services*.
- In the review so far, four of the five acute hospitals in Essex currently have demonstrated the potential to provide hyper acute services. These are:
  - Basildon & Thurrock University hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
  - Colchester Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust
  - Mid Essex Hospital Services NHS Trust
  - Southend University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
- External experts, having researched the evidence for improving outcomes for stroke patients, would suggest that collaboration between hospital service providers would be the best approach to providing hyper acute services. Further work is ongoing to consider the options for investment in hyper acute services and development of the entire stroke service pathway for patients.
- We are proposing to publish the review findings for public consultation before reaching any final decisions on how stroke services should be commissioned.

## Process update

- The Essex Cardiac and Stroke Network, Essex Stroke Commissioning Group and Essex Stroke Provider Group have assessed the clinical benefits of options for investing in hyper acute services.
- In the next stage, a project team at NHS Midlands and East is completing two main pieces of work. One is a financial appraisal and the other is an assessment of how development should be coordinated across the entire region, looking at the way services could collaborate across organisational borders.
- Meanwhile, the seven CCGs in Essex are reviewing the findings to date.
- Once the CCGs have concluded their considerations, the Essex team will submit its findings to NHS Midlands and East for further feedback, which is likely to follow in February 2013. We will then know more about the potential options for Essex with sufficient information to publish for local people to have an informed view.

## **Proposed consultation programme**

- Ongoing briefings for Health Overview and Scrutiny Committees - Jan/Feb 2013
- Pre-consultation discussion document published end Feb/early March 2013
- Feedback from pre-consultation to inform consultation document
- Main public consultation dates to be confirmed in line with regional decision-making (probably after beginning of May 2013)
- Decisions in light of consultation feedback to be considered in Sept/Oct 2013.

## **Conclusion**

This update to be noted by Members and we welcome views on the consultation process.

Jackie King  
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Ends.