

CHILDREN AND ADULTS OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

9 SEPTEMBER 2010

WORK PROGRAMME

Report from: Rose Collinson, Director of Children and Adults

Author: Teri Hemmings, Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinator

Summary

This item advises Members of the current work programme and allows the Committee to adjust it in the light of latest priorities, issues and circumstances. It gives Members the opportunity to shape and direct the Committee's activities over the year.

1. Budget and Policy Framework

1.1 Under Chapter 4 – Rules, paragraph 22.1 (v) General terms of reference, each overview and scrutiny committee has the responsibility for setting its own work programme.

2. Background

2.1 Appendix 1 to this report sets out the existing work programme for the Committee.

3. Agenda planning meeting

3.1 Members will be aware that Overview and Scrutiny Committees hold agenda planning meetings on a regular basis. These give officers guidance on information that Members wish them to provide when scrutinising an issue. An agenda planning meeting took place on Wednesday, 25 August 2010.

3.2 At the meeting it was explained that a report on Complaints and Compliments had been added to the agenda for this meeting. However, officers suggested that this instead is provided via a briefing note and officers would then, later in the year, provide a presentation to the Committee on the outcome and learning from the report and the range of ways in which the Council explains to children and young people how they can complain. The Chairman agreed with this approach.

3.3 The Chairman requested that visual plans of the various options for Barnsole school are available on powerpoint at the meeting.

4. Cabinet Forward Plan

4.1 No new items have been added to the Cabinet Forward Plan that fall within the remit of this Committee.

5. Health Scrutiny

5.1 To keep Members of this Committee informed about key activities relating to the scrutiny of children's health this section provides an update of recent or forthcoming activity for both this Committee and the Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

5.2. A briefing paper has been received from the National Specialised Commissioning Group in relation to changes to 'Safe and Sustainable Children's Heart surgery'. The group is consulting Health Scrutiny Committees across the country and will be able to offer further details in October. Attached as Appendix 2 to this report is the briefing paper which explains that the aim is to reduce the number of hospitals undertaking this complex surgery which will boost expertise, mean fewer deaths and fewer complications following surgery. It is intended that the matter will be considered on 13 September 2010 at a meeting of Health Scrutiny Committee chairs and officers with NHS South East (the Strategic Health Authority).

5.3. As soon as further details are available these will be made known to the Committee.

6 Implications for Looked After Children

6.1 Scrutinising services and support for looked after children (LAC) is a key aspect of the remit of this Committee. Members should ensure they focus attention on the Every Child Matters outcomes for LAC as well as scrutinising every child matters outcomes for all children in Medway.

7 Financial and legal implications

7.1 There are no financial or legal implications arising from this report.

8. Recommendations

8.1 That, subject to changes made at the meeting, the work programme is agreed as set out at the attached Appendix 1;

8.2 That the committee receives a briefing note providing information on complaints and compliments received within children's social care in 2009/10 and that a presentation is provided for the committee later in the year on the learning from the outcomes and on ways the Council explains to children and young people about how they can complain;

8.3 That the committee notes the current consultation 'Safe and Sustainable Children's Heart surgery' and awaits further information.

Lead officer contact:

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Background papers:

None

Work Programme
Children and Adults Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Policy framework documents – Children and Young People’s Plan and Youth Justice Plan

Item	Work Type	Responsible officer	Objectives	Timescale	Every Child Matters outcome
Council Plan monitoring – first quarter	Performance monitoring	Abi Cooper, Research and Review Manager	To scrutinise performance against targets in the Council Plan.	9 September 2010	All
Healthy eating amongst children and young people	Scrutiny	Juliet Sevier Assistant Director Inclusion/ Zoe Barkham Wellbeing Strategy Manager/ Nicky Ling Senior Public Health Manager	To receive a report from the Healthy Eating Task Group.	9 September 2010	Be healthy
Medway Safeguarding Children Board (MSCB)	Performance management	Sally Mortimore, MSCB Manager	To consider and scrutinise the activity of the MSCB and its Business Plan and Annual Report.	9 September 2010	Stay safe
Options for Barnsole – location of new school building	Service information	Chris McKenzie, Head of School Organisation and Governor Services	To be brought back to Committee for consideration.	9 September 2010	Enjoy and achieve
Update – future location of the Child Development Centre	NHS Scrutiny	Sally Morris, Assistant Director, Commissioning and Strategy/ NHS Medway colleagues	To receive an update on the future location of the Child Development Centre	20 October 2010	Be healthy
Redesignation of Rivermead School	Pre-decision scrutiny	Paul Clarke, School Organisation Officer	To consider the proposal to redesignate Rivermead School	20 October 2010	Enjoy and achieve
Sure Start provision	Service information	Mark Holmes, Early Years Strategy Manager	To receive an update on Sure Start provision in Medway	20 October 2010	All

Item	Work Type	Responsible officer	Objectives	Timescale	Every Child Matters outcome
Transition between Year 6 and Year 7	Service information	Simon Trotter, Assistant Director, Learning and Achievement	To invite the 21 st Century schools group of the Children's Trust and consider the transition issues between years 6 and 7 along with sharing best practice.	20 October 2010	Enjoy and achieve
Update on academy programmes	Service information	Simon Trotter, Assistant Director Learning and Achievement/ Chris McKenzie Head of School Organisation and Governor Services	To receive an update on the academies in Medway	20 October 2010	Enjoy and achieve
Council Plan monitoring – second quarter	Performance monitoring	Abi Cooper, Research and Review Manager	To scrutinise performance against targets in the Council Plan.	14 December 2010	All
Draft capital and revenue budgets 2011/12	Budget scrutiny	Mick Hayward, Chief Finance Officer	To consider and scrutinise the draft capital and revenue budgets for 2011/12	14 December 2010	All
Medway Safeguarding Children Board (MSCB)	Performance management	Sally Mortimore, MSCB Manager	To consider and scrutinise the activity of the MSCB and its draft Business Plan.	20 January 2011	Stay safe
Portfolio Holder for Children's Services in attendance	Executive accountability		To hold the Portfolio Holder for Children's Services (lead member) to account	20 January 2011	All
Council Plan monitoring – third quarter	Performance monitoring	Abi Cooper, Research and Review Manager	To scrutinise performance against targets in the Council Plan.	1 March 2011	All

Item	Work Type	Responsible officer	Objectives	Timescale	Every Child Matters outcome
Themed meeting - Bullying	Scrutiny	Juliet Seviar Assistant Director Inclusion / Zoe Barkham Wellbeing Strategy Manager	To consider action being taken to prevent bullying in Medway, following the results of the TellUs Survey 2009.	1 March 2011	Enjoy and achieve Stay safe
Portfolio Holder for Children's Social Care	Executive accountability		To hold the Portfolio Holder for Children's Social Care to account	5 April 2011	Stay safe
Portfolio Holder for Housing and Community Services	Executive accountability		To hold the Portfolio Holder for Housing and Community Services to account in relation to adult learning	5 April 2011	N/A
Council Plan monitoring – fourth quarter	Performance monitoring	Abi Cooper, Research and Review Manager	To scrutinise performance against targets in the Council Plan.	To be determined	All
Vetting and barring	Service information	Rose Collinson, Director of Children and Adults	To receive an update on national guidance in relation to vetting and barring	To be determined	Stay safe

Forthcoming meetings:

2010: 9 September, 20 October and 14 December (budget).

2011: 20 January, 1 March and 5 April.

Work completed in 2010/2011:

27 May 2010

- Common assessment framework
- Tell Us Survey 2009
- End of year performance report 2009/10

12 July 2010

- Update – future location of the Child Development Centre
- Youth Justice Plan
- Looked after children attainment
- Ofsted inspections

Safe and Sustainable Children's Heart Surgery: A Briefing

Our aim

This briefing aims to provide Health Overview and Scrutiny Committees with further information on the NHS review of children's heart surgery services in England. It is possible that when the NHS delivers proposals for change in these services some HOSCs may consider them to be a 'substantial variation', requiring us to formally consult with those HOSCs.

What we would like from HOSCs

We would like HOSCs to let us know of their proposed scrutiny arrangements in time for formal public consultation in the autumn of 2010. This will help us to start to plan how best to work with HOSCs during the consultation and it will help HOSCs to begin to plan for how they might be consulted. We realise that HOSCs cannot be certain about the exact arrangements until they have seen the review's proposals and decided whether the proposed changes constitute a substantial variation but we would like to plan with you now so that HOSCs can make best use of the consultation period.

When does public consultation take place?

The NHS will hold consultation from **October 2010 to January 2011**. Please see back page for further dates.

Who will consult?

The NHS is establishing a national joint committee of Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) that will have legal powers for consultation and decision making. The committee will include the Chair of each of the 10 Specialised Commissioning Groups in England (each SCG Chair is a PCT Chief Executive).

What is the likely outcome of the review and what are we likely to be consulting about?

Children's heart surgery is a complex and relatively rare treatment. On average a PCT is likely to have only 20 children each year requiring heart surgery. It is likely that the review will recommend a reduction in the number of NHS hospitals that provide children's heart surgery. Although surgery may cease in some hospitals, they would continue to provide a specialist cardiology service for children in their region.

There are currently 11 surgical centres across England – the map on page three shows their locations.

Why is there a need for the review?

- Children's heart surgery is becoming increasingly complex
- Services have developed on an ad hoc basis; there is a need for a planned approach for England and Wales
- Surgical expertise (31 surgeons) is spread too thinly over 11 surgical centres
- Some centres are reliant on one or two surgeons and cannot deliver a safe 24 hour emergency service
- Smaller centres are vulnerable to sudden and unplanned closure
- Current arrangements are inequitable as there is too much variation in the expertise available from centres
- Fewer surgical centres are needed to ensure that surgical and medical teams are seeing a sufficient number of children to maintain and develop their specialist skills
- Available research evidence identifies a relationship between higher-volume surgical centres and better clinical outcomes
- Having a larger and varied caseload means larger centres are best placed to recruit and retain new surgeons and plan for the future
- The delivery of non-surgical cardiology care for children in local hospitals is inconsistent; strong leadership is required from surgical centres to develop expertise through regional and local networks
- Increasing the national pool of surgeons is not the answer, as this would result in surgeons performing fewer surgical procedures and increase the risk of occasional surgical practice

What does the review aim to achieve?

- Better results in the surgical centres with fewer deaths and complications following surgery
- Better, more accessible diagnostic services and follow up treatment delivered within regional and local networks
- Reduced waiting times and fewer cancelled operations
- Improved communication between parents and all of the services in the network that see their child
- Better training for surgeons and their teams to ensure the sustainability of the service
- A trained workforce expert in the care and treatment of children and young people with congenital heart disease
- Centres at the forefront of modern working practices and innovative technologies that are leaders in research and development
- A network of specialist centres collaborating in research and clinical development, encouraging the sharing of knowledge across the network

Is there support for the review?

There is strong support for the review, which was instigated at the request of national parent groups, NHS clinicians and their professional associations. However, some local parent groups and clinicians working in the centres are understandably concerned about the future of their own centres.

How will the NHS consult the public?

- Face to face events across England and Wales
- Online communications, including video and accessible information
- Printed communications, such as the consultation document itself and newsletters
- Through the media

How will the NHS consult with HOSCs?

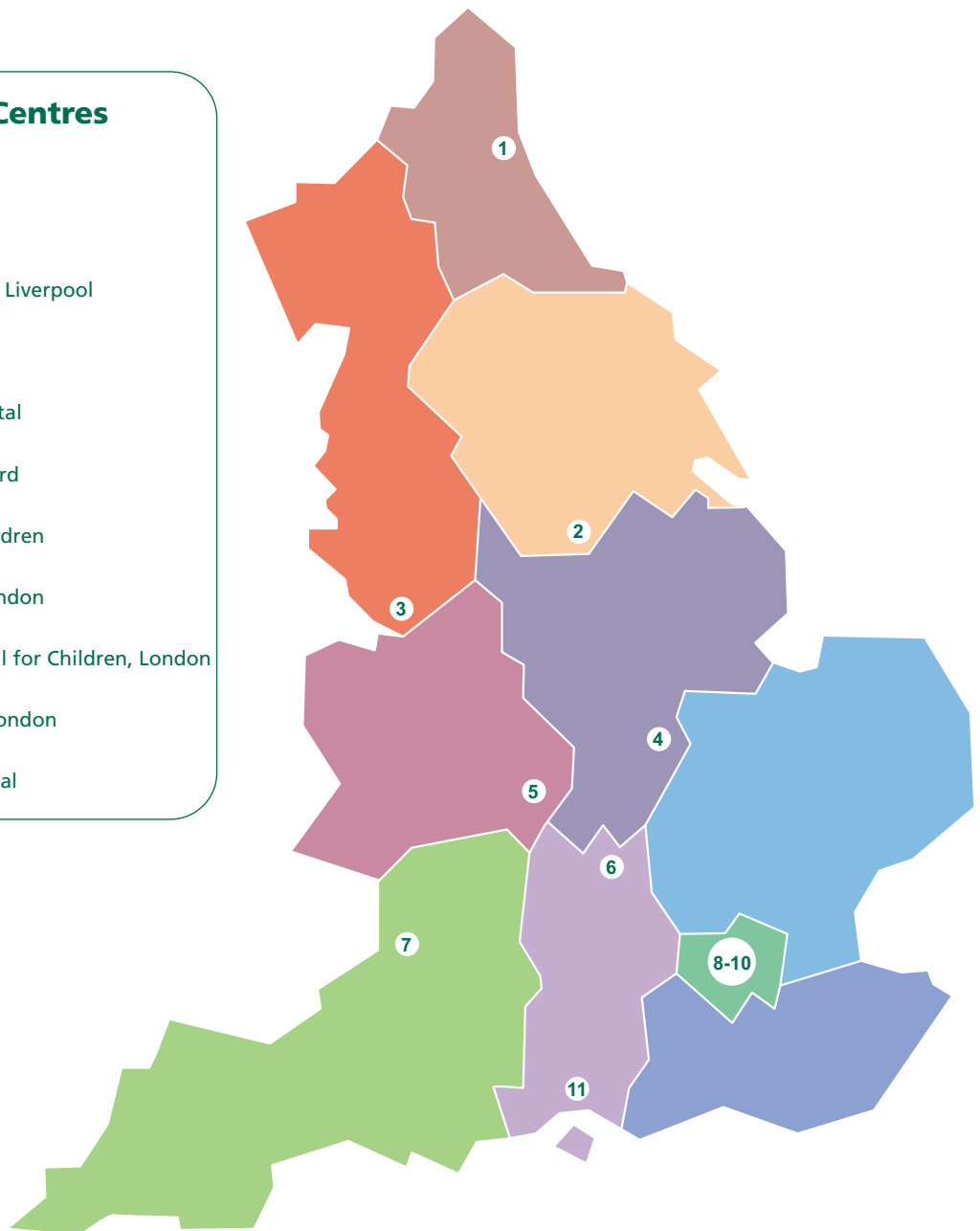
We want you to help us plan for consultation by telling us how you think we can best engage with HOSCs.

The 2003 Direction from the Secretary of State requires scrutiny committees to convene a joint HOSC when two or more HOSCs consider proposals affecting a population larger than a single HOSC to be 'substantial'.

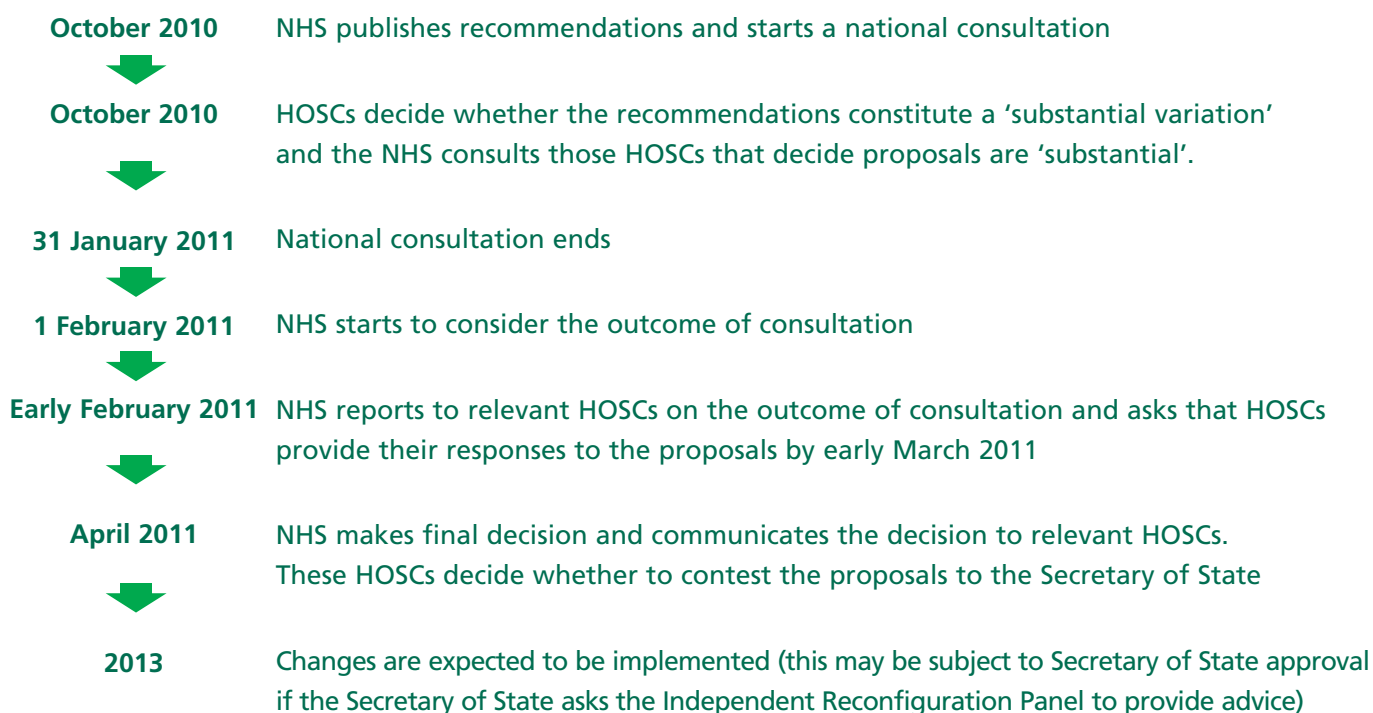
There are 10 Strategic Health Authority regions in England, so it may make sense to align scrutiny arrangements with these regions. We are aware that HOSCs in several regions already have protocols for joint scrutiny of health issues.

Current Surgical Centres

- 1 Freeman Hospital, Newcastle
- 2 Leeds Teaching Hospital
- 3 Alder Hey Childrens Hospital, Liverpool
- 4 Glenfield Hospital, Leicester
- 5 Birmingham Children's Hospital
- 6 John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford
- 7 Bristol Royal Hospital for Children
- 8 Royal Brompton Hospital, London
- 9 Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children, London
- 10 Evelina Children's Hospital, London
- 11 Southampton General Hospital



What is the timeline?



Please let us know:

1. Your proposed arrangements for scrutiny (for example, whether or not you think that existing arrangements for regional joint scrutiny can be used)
2. Contact details so that we can start to confirm dates and venues for presentations to HOSCs (we suggest that we set dates now so that we can start to work with you in developing a consultation that meets your needs)
3. Any other questions that you may have

Contact details

The NHS review is led by the National Specialised Commissioning Team on behalf of the 10 Specialised Commissioning Groups in England.

Please contact: Zuzana Bates, Project Liaison Manager e: Zuzana.Bates@nsscg.nhs.uk

National Specialised Commissioning Team 2nd floor, Southside, 105 Victoria Street, London SW1E 6QT
Direct Line: 020 7932 3771

Further information

Other documents that you may wish to read include:

- 'The Need for Change' (April 2010) which sets out the reasons why change is considered necessary
- Clinical standards that hospitals providing children's heart surgery must meet in the future (March 2010)
- Newsletters

These, and other documents, are available from our website: <http://www.specialisedcommissioning.nhs.uk/index.php/safe-and-sustainable-programmes/childrens-heart-surgery-services-programme/>

We would like to thank the Centre for Public Scrutiny for their assistance.