



meeting **HEALTH SELECT COMMITTEE**

date **13 December 2005**

agenda item number

## **Report of the Chair of the Health Select Committee**

### **Centralisation of cancer services into South Yorkshire**

#### **Purpose of the Report**

1. To invite Members to consider the impact that the centralisation of cancer services into South Yorkshire will have on people living in the north of the county.

#### **Background**

2. The NHS Cancer Plan is a 10 year strategy to improve cancer services through fundamental reform of cancer services in England.
3. The Plan formally established cancer networks across the country, bringing together the organisations and health professionals which plan deliver treatment and care for cancer patients.

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#### **Issues**

4. The North Trent Cancer Network has submitted plans in respect of breast, colorectal, lung, gynaecology, upper GI, urology, haematology and supportive and palliative care.
5. These action plans describe how services will be delivered, timescales for meeting national guidance, particularly where significant transfers of services are required, and any investment requirements to support service improvements.
6. Once these actions plans are submitted they are considered by a national team who then either approve them or seek further detail from the network in the event and they are not considered to be fully compliant with national guidance.

7. Summarised below is the latest information on the North Trent Cancer Network's action plans against each tumour specific site:

- **Gynaecological**

- Future service model is based on centralisation of radical surgery in Sheffield

- **Upper Gastrointestinal**

- Continued provision of pancreatic surgery service from Sheffield
  - Oesophageal cancer supported by two surgical teams – Sheffield and Doncaster. Work has begun on establishing a “one centre/two site” surgical model.
  - Gastric cancer to continue in local District General Hospitals (A response from the National Cancer Action Team has questioned this approach and further work is being done by the Network to stay this response).

- **Urological**

- Penile Cancer reconstructive surgery to be commissioned through specialised service, such as one in Leeds
  - Testicular cancer will continue centrally from Sheffield.
  - Kidney, prostate and bladder surgery will be transferred to a centralised service in Sheffield.

- **Haematological**

- Action plan being revised

- **Supportive and Palliative Care for Adults**

- A plan has been submitted and approved including undertaking a population based needs assessment, ensuring equitable access to 24 hour specialist care advice, increasing access to seven day a week face to face communications, among many other priorities.

**District Council meeting**

8. Bassetlaw District Council is meeting with representatives from Bassetlaw PCT and the Doncaster and Bassetlaw Hospitals Trust on 5 December to discuss these issues.

9. Further papers will be forwarded from the outcome of this meeting as information for members prior to the Select Committee meeting on 13 December.
10. Representatives from Bassetlaw District Council, Bassetlaw PCT and Bassetlaw Hospital Trust will be attending the Health Select Committee meeting to provide further details on the proposals and to answer questions from Members.
11. Of particular concern will be an assurance that by centralising services currently provided by Doncaster and Bassetlaw Hospitals to Sheffield, people in the north of our county are not being disadvantaged through increased travel times nor a perceived loss of access to service.
12. Appendix 1 details a paper from Doncaster and Bassetlaw Hospital Trust regarding proposed changes to gynaecological services.
13. The proposed transfer of the urological services may be the other area of concern of Members.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that Members seek clarity and/or more detail on the proposals and the subsequent effects on the north of the county.

**Councillor Jim Napier**  
**Chair, Health Select Committee**

### **Background Papers**

- Overview and Scrutiny Committee Briefing, Bassetlaw DC, June 2005
- Correspondence from NORCOM to NHS colleagues, dated 29 July 2005.