

Defence and National Rehabilitation Centre (DNRC)

Briefing for the County Health Scrutiny Committee – December 2018

Background

The DNRC Programme began in 2010 with a year-long cross-Government feasibility study. Following Government acceptance of its recommendations (embracing both the Defence and National propositions), the Black Stork Charity was created in 2011 and the DNRC Programme became its delivery means.

The Defence rehabilitation centre is now operational on the Stanford Hall Rehabilitation Estate near Loughborough in the East Midlands with all patients from Headley Court now being treated in the new facility.

The opportunity now is, therefore, to create the first collaborative civilian and military specialist clinical rehabilitation capability in the UK with the National facility comprising:

- East Midlands regional inpatient rehabilitation unit
- National training and education centre
- National /international research and innovation centre

In November 2018, in the Budget announcement, the Chancellor announced £70million towards the capital cost of the National facility. Work is underway in the NHS, led by Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust (NUH), to establish appropriate sponsorship and project management of the National facility.

It has been agreed and supported by our regulator, NHS Improvement, that NUH will take the lead on establishing a Programme Board to focus on delivery of this project over the next two to three years.

Scope and potential

As the East Midlands Major Trauma Centre, NUH took on the lead role for the clinical work stream in 2016 when it was asked to complete a Strategic Outline Case (SOC) for an East Midlands regional inpatient rehabilitation facility. The SOC demonstrated the clinical case of need for a regional rehabilitation facility for patients from Major Trauma, Neurological, Musculoskeletal and traumatic amputation cohorts. Most activity would be transferred and the proposal does not include closure of services. This case was subsequently confirmed by an internal NUH Outline Business Case, which was completed in August 2018.

Potential benefits include:

1. Sharing facilities with the defence rehabilitation centre including advanced diagnostic equipment, hydrotherapy pool and conference facilities.
2. Improved rehabilitation services in the East Midlands region. There is currently an average wait in an acute bed of 24 days for a rehabilitation bed. This proposal would eliminate wait times

3. Improved clinical outcomes as a result of the above
4. Overall reduction in length of stay
5. Improving return to work rates for major trauma patients (currently at 35% after six months, compared to 85% in the military)

The wider opportunities in addition to the clinical elements include:

1. NUH leading a programme to develop a new clinical model that could be rolled-out across all major trauma networks
2. Opportunity to share knowledge and expertise with Defence rehabilitation medicine for the first time in the UK
3. National opportunity for training and research with local benefits for recruitment to NUH
4. Research and Innovation benefits to regional economy

Next steps

Item	Action
1.	NRC Programme Board to be established
2.	Gap analysis to be completed on exiting documentation
3.	Strategic Outline Case to be completed for the three elements of the N – led by the Programme Board
4.	Outline Business Case and Full Business Case to be developed