

**Sandwell and Birmingham Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

**Sandwell and West Birmingham Solid Tumour Oncology and Specialised Gynaecology Cancer Surgery Services**

**Report submitted by: Catherine O'Connell, Director of Specialised Commissioning, Midlands and East**

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## **1. Purpose**

The purpose of this report is to provide a brief commissioning update plans for the solid tumour oncology service for people living in Sandwell and West Birmingham, and on plans for the Pan-Birmingham Gynae Oncology Cancer Surgery Centre.

## **2. Solid Tumour Oncology (chemotherapy)**

NHS England Specialised Commissioners, in conjunction with Sandwell and West Birmingham CCG (SWBCCG), and NHS Improvement, have been working with providers across Birmingham and the Black Country to ensure the sustainability of the solid tumour oncology service for the Sandwell and West Birmingham population.

The service is currently being provided by University Hospital Birmingham (UHB) from the Queen Elizabeth Hospital on an interim basis. Following patient and clinical engagement, and an options appraisal that identified a UHB led service from the SWBH sites as the preferred option, UHB and Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals (SWBH) are working together on plans for a phased re-provision of the service at Sandwell and City Hospitals.

Monitoring of the current service by NHS England includes regular visits by the quality lead and the collection of key performance data which shows that there have been zero serious incidents or complaints.

## **3. Specialist Gynaecological Oncology Surgery Centre Service**

Gynaecology Cancer 'Units' are located in most hospital trusts that provide adult gynaecology and surgical services and are commissioned by local Clinical Commissioning Groups.

Gynaecology Cancer 'Centres' provide specialised services for complex gynaecological cancer surgery. They are commissioned by NHS England. They are staffed by different teams than the 'Units' although a hospital that has a 'Centre' will

also have a 'Unit.' There are four 'Centres' in the West Midlands, in Birmingham, Wolverhampton, Coventry and Stoke.

The Birmingham service provides complex gynaecology cancer surgery each year from Birmingham, Sandwell, Solihull, Walsall and other parts of the West Midlands and beyond. The team undertakes approximately 400 procedures each year.

Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust served notice on this centre in the summer 2017, and from April 2020 will no longer provide specialised complex gynaecology cancer surgery.

NHS England is working with local Clinical Commissioning Groups and the Cancer Alliance to plan how to provide this service in the future, and has revisited the potential options. A clinician survey has been carried out and a patient survey is underway to inform the development and assessment of the options.

Appraisal of all the options that are potentially deliverable will take place at the end of January / end of February and will involve a clinical panel and a patient / public panel. The options appraisal will identify a preferred option and the then NHS England will begin the process to mobilise the future service, working closely with the relevant providers.

A communications and engagement plan supports this work. Following feedback from patient organisations, we will be carrying out a wider piece of patient engagement over the next few weeks to incorporate the views of patients at the other Centres. We will ensure we can analyse the views of patients and carers connected to the Birmingham centre separately to highlight any differences. As per previous discussions at the Joint HOSC, there remain no plans to undertake formal consultation unless the preferred option is to remove the service from the Birmingham area.