

## QUARTERLY REPORT: SPECIALISED COMMISSIONING TEAM [WEST MIDLANDS]

### 1. Introduction

The purpose of this report is to update Board members on the work programme/key issues relevant to the host organisation for specialised commissioning.

The Specialised Commissioning Team (West Midlands) is responsible for the commissioning of a range of specialised services on behalf of both the West Midlands PCTs [via the Strategic Commissioning Group and the Local Pan Birmingham PCTs (via the Local Collaborative Commissioning Board)].

### 2. National Work Programme

West Midlands Strategic Commissioning Group has contributed significantly to the development of the national work programme for specialised commissioning both via:

- National Specialised Commissioning Group (NSCG) Sophia Christie is the representative for the West Midlands.
- Specialised Commissioning Group Network of Directors (Karen Helliwell is the representative).

The key work areas over the past quarter have included:

#### **Development of a designation process of providers.**

The document Health Reform in England: Update and Commissioning Framework [June 2006] states that: "Each SHA will be responsible for ensuring that appropriate and effective collaborative commissioning arrangements for specialised services are in place for the PCTs in their area and will performance-manage such arrangements..... In particular: SCGs will formally designate specific providers to provide specified specialised services; designation will be based on an agreed set of criteria [e.g. patient-centred, clinical, service, quality, financial] and will be reassessed every five years".

Each region will be leading on developing the designation framework for one service on behalf of all SCGs in 08/09. The West Midlands will be leading on Medium Secure Services and also supporting London SCG on the haemophilia designation process (given our expertise in this area).

#### **Consultation process on the Specialised Service National Definition Set (SSDNS)**

The Specialised Services Definition Set [SSDNS] is currently being revised and three of the definitions for cardiac surgery, cardiology, respiratory and clinical immunology are out to consultation.

The purpose of the definition set is “to identify the activity that should be regarded as specialised and therefore subject to PCT collaborative commissioning arrangements”.

This is an extremely important piece of work which will determine the future portfolio of services which the SCT (WM) will take up on behalf of PCTs. It is also anticipated that some services will be taken off the list as they have become more commonly undertaken in DGHs. The consultation process on the revised definitions closes on 29<sup>th</sup> February 2008.

### **3. Regional Work Programme**

Some of the key issues arising this quarter have been:

#### **Mental Health Procurement Project for Independent Sector Providers**

Following the paper presented to the December Trust Board, work has been progressing on the project to appoint the firm of solicitors who will support the project board. (A tendering process is due for completion at the end of February). The OJEU advert will then be placed in March 2008.

#### **Yardley Green Site Development**

The SCT (WM) has been working closely with BEN PCT and other key stakeholders on the communications and engagement strategy for the site. An appointment has been made for a communications manager to assist in this project and the wider work of the team.

#### **Dental Services**

The SCG and PCTs of the West Midlands have approved the transfer of the commissioning of Dental Services back from the Local Collaborative Commissioning Board to PCT commissioning. Dental services are not classified as a specialised service and PCTs wished consider all dental commissioning in one strategy/commissioning body.

A co-ordinating PCT for the region will be identified to ensure continuing co-operation on strategic planning.

#### **Implementation of New Contracts**

##### **▪ Acute Contracts**

The SCT (WM) will be entering into separate acute contracts with West Midlands providers for specialised services and will be acting as a “co-

ordinating commissioner". Considerable effort is going into signing off 08/09 contracts with all 50 acute providers.

- **Mental Health Contract**

The SCT (WM) has representation on the national working group to develop the new mental health contract.

- **Ambulance Contract**

In advance of the national ambulance contract the SCT [WM] is also working to develop best practice on the contract documentation and performance framework with the Ambulance Trust. Regional Commissioning arrangements for ambulance services will be finalised for the new financial year.

- **Governance/Engagement**

The SCT [WM] has now appointed Janice Cunningham as Head of Governance for the team. Janice will be working closely with BEN PCT as host organisation to develop a more comprehensive governance and assurance framework.

In addition in 2008/09 the SCT [WM] will be working on a Patient and Public involvement Strategy. The SCT [WM] also now have a regular invite to the Regional Chair of OSCs monthly meeting which will assist in closer working relationships and partnership with the OSCs.

- **World Class Commissioning**

The Director of the SCT [WM] is also a member of BEN's World Class Commissioning Board and will be ensuring the commissioning of specialised services is integrated into the project.

- **Finance**

In terms of the overall financial position for the SCT [WM] the forecast outturn for 2007/08 is for a surplus of £1,043K against the overall portfolio of specialised services [regional/LCCBs]. The Pan Birmingham LCCB is forecasting a surplus of £747K.

#### **4. Recommendation**

That the Primary Care Trust Board note the report.