

QUARTERLY REPORT – SEPTEMBER 2008 SPECIALISED COMMISSIONING TEAM [WEST MIDLANDS]

1. Purpose

To update Board members on the work programme/key issues relevant to the host organisation for the Specialised Commissioning Team [West Midlands].

2. Introduction

The Specialised Commissioning Team [West Midlands] is responsible for the commissioning of a range of specialised services on behalf of both West Midlands PCTs [via the West Midlands Strategic Commissioning Group chaired by Joanne Newton, Chair of Herefordshire PCT] and the Local Pan Birmingham PCTs [via the Local Collaborative Commissioning Board chaired by Sophia Christie].

This report includes updates and progress on:

National Work Programme

Eculizumab

The SCT [WM] and Sophia Christie have been working closely to consider the implications of funding Eculizumab [a high cost drug] upon the completion of patient trials. The National Specialised Commissioning Group has now recommended it should be not be commissioned at a national level and final confirmation from Ministers is awaited.

World Class Commissioning

The SCT [WM] is supporting all PCTs across the West Midlands as part of the World Class Commissioning Assurance Process being carried out in the autumn.

This has included:

- Developing a prospectus/guide to specialised commissioning for PCTs and their Boards [to be finalised in September].
- Supporting strategies to achieve improved outcomes.
- Participating in LONU event in August

The DH have also organised a workshop on 16th September to discuss applying the commissioning assurance system to specialised commissioning. It is proposed to pilot an application of the system in the North West this year, with the aim of a full roll out nationally from April 2009. This may involve an assessment of the role of the host PCT as part of the process,

West Midlands Work Programme

HSJ finalist – World Class Commissioning Category

The Specialised Commissioning Team [West Midlands] has been shortlisted as a finalist in the WCC category of the HSJ awards. This relates to commissioning of Invasive Cardiology procedures [as part of primary PCI project] for the Black Country PCTs.

Patient and Public Involvement

Two PPI stakeholder events held to develop SCG strategy.

Designation of Specialised Services

The SCT [WM] hosted a successful workshop in July to consider the process by which the PCTs will designate providers to undertake treatment for specialised services. This is a commissioning tool outlined in the DH review of specialised commissioning arrangements in 2006. A draft strategy is currently out for consultation.

SCG Annual Report

The West Midlands SCG has produced its first annual report outlining the work of the Specialised Commissioning Team, Local Collaborative Commissioning Boards and the West Midlands Strategic Commissioning Group. A copy of the annual report will be available for distribution at the Board meeting.

Independent Sector Procurement Project

The process for procuring the provision of a secure/CAMHS Tier 4 framework of providers is well underway supported by expertise from the DH Commercial Directorate. The project is currently through the pre-qualification stage for potential bidders.

CAMHS Tier 4 Strategy

The SCT [WM] is currently engaging widely with all key stakeholders [including parents and children – involving support and ideas from BEN PPI team] to develop its 5 year strategy for CAMHS Tier 4 services.

3. 2008/09 Financial Position

SCT [WM] hosts both regional and 5 LCCB budgets on behalf of West Midlands PCT's totalling £837m including the emergency ambulance contract with West Midlands Ambulance Service.

The Table below shows the total budget managed by SCT [WM] plus forecast year end position by budget:

Budget	Annual (£000)	Budget	Year End Forecast (£000) (Over/(Under))
Regional (Tier 2)		415,254	(13)
Pan Birmingham LCCB		178,498	63
Shropshire/Staffordshire LCCB		81,545	(112)
Black Country LCCB		66,314	152
Coventry & Warwickshire LCCB		56,351	(124)
Hereford & Worcestershire LCCB		38,938	(258)
Total		836,900	(292)

The Regional Finance position includes higher than funded growth in admissions for forensic mental health patients, which are primarily within Independent Sector providers. There has also been an increase in neonatal activity and pulmonary hypertension drugs - the latter in response to a national commissioning policy which has increased access

The SCT [WM] team are promoting home delivery of haemophilia factor products to reduce costs and improve quality, and have received national funding for the development of Burns services within the West Midlands (£1.5m).

The LCCB positions include increased cardiac surgery, implantable cardioverter defibrillator (ICD) and specialised children's activity above plan. The LCCB are managing high cost cancer drugs within budget

An increased performance in renal transplant activity within the Region over 2007/08 and 2008/09 has reduced pressure on renal dialysis capacity in the West Midlands but plans are progressing for new capacity – based on 5% growth per annum. SCT [WM] currently commissions renal dialysis services for over 3,000 patients at a cost exceeding £96m.

Additional radiotherapy activity has been commissioned at both University Hospital Birmingham and Royal Wolverhampton Hospitals to increase capacity for conformal radiotherapy with effect from September 2008. This has involved significant planning and recruitment of clinical staff.