

**Re: Provision of Neuro-Rehabilitation at the Royal National Hospital for Rheumatic Diseases
OSC Briefing: For Information & Comment**

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Specialised Commissioning Team:	Sue Davies, Acting Director of Commissioning, South of England Specialised Commissioning Group, South West Team Angela Hibbard, Acting Director of Finance, South of England Specialised Commissioning Group, South West Team Arthur Ling, Lead Commissioner for Specialised Neuro-Rehabilitation Services, South of England Specialised Commissioning Group, South West Team Lou Farbus, Head of Public & Patient Engagement, South of England Specialised Commissioning Group, South West Team

1 Purpose of the Report

1.1 To report to Wiltshire Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee:

- the response of the South of England Specialised Commissioning Group (South West Team) to the Royal National Hospital for Rheumatic Diseases (RNHRD's) recent announcement that it is expressing a preference to cease providing its neuro-rehabilitation service; an issue on which it will engage with patients, the public and all relevant stakeholders.

2 Decisions / Actions Requested

2.1 Wiltshire Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee is asked to note:

- patients needing this service will continue to be treated. The NHS will continue to provide high quality neuro-rehabilitation services for those who need them;
- patients from outside the area who need less complex neuro-rehabilitation are increasingly being treated near to where they live;
- as a result, referrals, particularly from outside the region, have consistently reduced;
- there have been no issues regarding quality or safety;

- all options for re-provision of the neuro-rehabilitation service will be explored and a decision made following a full programme of engagement;
- commissioners' intention to work with key stakeholders, including patients and the public as well as potential providers to identify the best way for patients from the south west to continue to receive high quality, specialised neuro-rehabilitation services in future.

3 Background

- 3.1 The RNHRD in Bath specialises in Rheumatology, Neurological Rehabilitation, Fatigue Management and Chronic Pain. As the smallest Foundation Trust in the country it is currently addressing significant financial challenges. It therefore needs to consider carefully the future of any service where patient referrals are reducing.
- 3.2 The neuro-rehabilitation service provides care for patients requiring either specialised or non-specialised (less complex) care. RNHRD has experienced a steady decline in patient numbers over the last few years, with patients from outside the area particularly, being treated closer to where they live. There have also been new pathways for some of the non-specialised patients. These are appropriate and reflect ongoing changes in the way care is delivered.
- 3.3 The table below shows that the trend of reduced patient numbers is not the case for specialised patients, but that the numbers of these patients in any year across the South West and for individual PCTs is low. The table shows the number of patients requiring specialised care over the last 3.5 years (**N.B. the figures for 2012/13 are for 6 months only**). The overall change in demand however has meant that the income for the service has reduced by almost 50% over this period. The service went from a peak in August 2010 when the unit provided 578 occupied bed days to August 2012 when activity had reduced to 192 occupied bed days. This has led to the service becoming unsustainable and the Trust's proposal to cease providing it, which is recognised by commissioners.

Primary Care Trust Population / Year	09-10	10-11	11-12	12-13	Grand Total
BATH AND NORTH EAST SOMERSET	13	20	20	12	65
BOURNEMOUTH & POOLE	0	1	0	0	1
NORTH SOMERSET	2	0	1	0	3
SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE	3	1	2	2	8
SWINDON	3	0	0	0	3
BRISTOL	2	1	1	1	5
CORNWALL & ISLES OF SCILLY	0	0	1	0	1
DEVON	1	0	0	3	4
DORSET	0	1	0	0	1
GLOUCESTERSHIRE	0	0	3	1	4
SOMERSET	1	2	4	3	10
WILTSHIRE	6	4	2	7	19
HAMPSHIRE	16	13	9	1	39
All OTHER PCT's	8	5	6	0	19
Grand Total	55	48	49	30	182

4 Next Steps

- 4.1 As the services provided at the RNHRD include specialised and non-specialised aspects of care the commissioners at the South of England Specialised Commissioning Group (South West Team) and NHS B&NES will work together to identify and evaluate all possible options for how (respectively) the specialised and non-specialised aspects of the Neurological Rehabilitation service can be re-provided.
- 4.2 We are aware of other providers that may be able to provide the service and will explore all options with them to ensure continuity of a high quality, specialist service. The team will endeavour to ensure that other providers have sufficient capacity and expertise to cope with any increase in complex referrals.
- 4.3 Following these discussions the specialised commissioning team will be in a position to outline the options to the public, patients and carers so their views can inform the preferred option for re-provision that will be brought to overview and scrutiny colleagues for their consideration. Hence, a programme of public and patient engagement will be designed around the options for re-provision and targeted at the populations most affected by any potential change in the location of the service.
- 4.3 Meanwhile, RNHRD will continue to provide the service until a decision is taken, and will lead on meeting its duties to involve the public and scrutiny colleagues concerning the proposal to cease providing the service, while the SWSCCT and NHS Wiltshire will meet these responsibilities in relation to re-provision of the service.

5 Recommendations

- 5.1 Wiltshire Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee is asked to note:
 - patients needing this service will continue to be treated. The NHS will continue to provide high quality neuro-rehabilitation services for those who need them;
 - patients from outside the area who need less complex neuro-rehabilitation are increasingly being treated near to where they live;
 - as a result, referrals, particularly from outside the region, have consistently reduced;
 - there have been no issues regarding quality or safety;
 - all options for re-provision of the neuro-rehabilitation service will be explored and a decision made following a full programme of engagement;
 - commissioners' intention to work with key stakeholders, including patients and the public as well as potential providers to identify the best way for patients from the south west to continue to receive high quality, specialised neuro-rehabilitation services in future.