

YORKSHIRE & THE HUMBER COMBINED NEONATAL AND PAEDIATRIC CRITICAL CARE TRANSPORT SERVICE



Update

We have completed the work on developing a service specification which describes how the service will be delivered and sets out standards for the service, audit processes and monitoring processes.

A paper describing the need to set up the service by the winter of 2009 and risks associated with delaying the implementation was taken to the Specialist Commissioning Group (SCG) in September.

Having considered these risks and the need to work with current providers to ensure clinical expertise if supported in the new service, the SCG agreed that the new Neonatal and Paediatric Critical Care Transport Service would not require "market testing" but would be developed through current providers.

This decision supports the requirement to implement the new service in a timely and robust manner, enabling the Project Steering Group to work together to ensure this service is set up appropriately to meet the specific requirements for both neonates and critically ill children in the region.

The SCG also supported a decision to support the Yorkshire Ambulance Service to hold the contract for the provision of vehicles and the drivers required by the team.

Project Plan

The project plan has been revised to set out the next stages in implementing the service against the tight time frame. We now have three sub groups working on developments for the clinical care, vehicle specification and service delivery.

These three sub groups will be responsible for developing job descriptions, operational protocols and guidelines, deciding on the location for the team, call centre arrangements, and personnel requirements for current and future staff.

We have set out timescales for completing job descriptions and advertising posts for the new service to ensure the transfer of staff into the service for August 2009. We will obviously be reliant on being able to recruit new consultant staff, middle grade staff and specialist nursing staff to work in the service. We will continue to work closely with the existing provider units to ensure that any existing transport staff are supported in being able to transfer into the new service should they wish to do so.

Resources

The new service will be resourced from all of the PCTs within the Yorkshire and the Humber region and requires a significant amount of new money to resource its existence. The benefits, however, of having a service out with any of the current neonatal and paediatric intensive care services will far outweigh the current services which, as you are aware, are unable to provide a consistent 24 hour service for neonates and children.

Communication

I have started to deliver a number of presentations around the region on the new service and am happy to continue to provide these for groups of staff who are interested in how the new service will be set up.

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