

## **Vascular services update September 2012**

### **Southampton HOSC**

#### **Background**

The SHIP PCT Cluster and its component CCGs are fully committed to commissioning a vascular service that offers all local patients the best outcomes.

In order to achieve this a Vascular Review process started in April 2010 when the NHS South Central Cardio Vascular Network prepared a specification for vascular services. In December 2010, proposals were received from Southampton University Hospital NHS Trust (UHS) and Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust (PHT) about how they would go about delivering a vascular service in line with the specification. These proposals were reviewed by an expert panel of independent clinicians, GPs and lay members. The panel concluded that Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust did not meet the specification at that time and a 'hub and spoke' model between Southampton and Portsmouth vascular services with emergency and planned complex arterial vascular surgery carried out at Southampton was the best model to meet the specification.

The SHIP PCT Cluster Medical Director facilitated some discussions between vascular surgeons and interventional radiologists across UHS and PHT with the aim of developing such a model and at the time these discussions appeared productive.

The Cluster and the Network then arranged a second Expert Panel in October 2011 to consider the output from these discussions and a proposal from PHT to develop a network with St Richards Hospital, Chichester. Having considered the proposal the Panel concluded it was "aspirational" as West Sussex Hospitals NHS Trust had not given their support to the proposal. Again the Panel's recommendation was that a single vascular service offered from the two hospital sites would provide the best chance for long term sustainable vascular services for local people.

Subsequently a third expert panel was held on the 5<sup>th</sup> January 2012 to consider a "standalone" proposal prepared by PHT which the panel felt could meet the specification if recruitment to planned posts were made and PHT were able to attract patients from West Sussex. However, the panel reinforced the benefit of a network between UHS and PHT to provide a sustainable service for the future.

During January both Trusts worked hard to develop an acceptable network model, and the PCT Cluster have made every effort to facilitate these discussions. Unfortunately the Trusts were unable to reach an agreement.

#### **Recent developments**

A vascular seminar was held on June 11<sup>th</sup> with clinicians and executives from both Trusts, the PCT Cluster and the local CCGs in attendance, together with stakeholders from local HOSCs, LINKs and independent clinical expertise. The notes of this seminar have been shared with the Committee.

Since the seminar the PCT Cluster has continued to impress upon the Chief Executives of University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (UHSFT) and Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust

(PHT) our expectation that a network model will be developed and have agreed and progressed a number of actions as follows:

- Mr Jonathan Earnshaw is going to provide independent clinical facilitation to the two Trusts to discuss the detail of a network model and overcome the historical concerns that have been raised. The first meeting has been arranged for 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2012.
- The PCT Cluster is establishing a Strategic Planning Group for Vascular Services to develop our commissioning intentions in line with the new national specification. We have confirmed representation from senior executives and clinicians from UHSFT and PHT and expect to hold the first meeting in October. Terms of Reference are attached.
- A clinical governance framework has been developed which will ensure effective monitoring of workforce, activity and clinical outcome requirements. This is attached. The PCT Cluster has been monitoring the workforce and clinical outcomes from the Trusts in line with the Clinical Governance Framework 1<sup>st</sup> April 2012.
- A vascular patient group has been established and meets bi-monthly. It includes representatives from Portsmouth, Southampton and South Eastern Hampshire. This group is being kept informed of discussions about vascular services between the two Trusts and is providing a service user view to inform future commissioning.
- It has been confirmed that all vascular surgery and vascular interventional radiology services excluding the treatment of varicose veins will be within the scope of national specialised commissioning in future. The service will include out-reach when delivered as part of a provider network. The expected national specification for vascular services has not been published yet.

#### **Decision required**

The Committee is asked to note the arrangements for monitoring of vascular services and advise when a further update is required.