

Case Study

Friarage Hospital - Hambleton, Richmond and Whitby CCG

Background

Over time the Friarage Hospital, part of South Tees Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, has experienced issues with the sustainability of some of its clinical services, with workforce shortages being the key driver for change for the Trust. With these proposals South Tees NHS FT were looking to stabilise the affected services and produce a long-term strategy to help the Friarage continue to provide safe, quality care to the local population.

The Problem

The workforce shortages, particularly of Consultant Anaesthetists to cover the Critical Care Unit and provide out of hours cover, brought into question the long-term clinical sustainability of delivering the current emergency care service model from the Friarage site. This also impacted on the acute pathway flows into the hospital side and the range of services that could be provided by acute medicine.

In January 2019 Hambleton, Richmond & Whitby CCG produced clinical models for the Friarage and asked for the Senate's early advice on these to help shape their development prior to the model being finalised. The Clinical Senate were asked to focus their review on whether the options developed for the clinical model addressed the issues raised in the clinical case for change and what risks, issues, opportunities or concerns the Senate advised the commissioner to consider.

Our Advice

Following a site visit and based upon the clinical models only being in the early stages of development, the Senate advised that the options put forward did address the issues in the case for change, but more clarity was required on the range of services that would be available at the Friarage should this clinical model be implemented.

The Senate made reference to the following issues/risks in their response, recommending these areas were addressed in the final model:

- Anaesthetic Cover/PACU and Out of Hours Cover
- Staffing
- Surgical procedures
- Repatriation
- Paediatrics
- GPs/Out of Hours
- Care of the elderly

Our Impact

"The Clinical Senate involvement has underpinned our work throughout the long and complex process of this reconfiguration of services. The positive response from the Clinical Senate has supported the progress of this work both with our clinical colleagues and also when presenting the case for change for formal assurance. The Senate advice acts as reassurance for other parties and the public that the preferred option is considered clinically safe in the view of an independent body."

Testimonial

"Working with the Yorkshire and Humber Clinical Senate has been a helpful, collaborative and supportive experience. We felt that the panel's review was detailed and considered. The clinical reflections received in the initial feedback from the Senate allowed us to ensure that we were articulating both the challenges and proposed solutions in a clear, balanced and understandable way."

Lisa Pope, Deputy Chief Operating Officer, Hambleton, Richmondshire and Whitby Clinical Commissioning Group



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