

Case Study

Haemato-oncology – Specialised Commissioning

Background

In autumn 2017, North Lincolnshire and Goole NHS Foundation Trust (NLAG) approached Hull and East Yorkshire NHS Foundation Trust (HEY) to support the haemato-oncology services at NLAG. This was due to the shortage of Consultant Haematologists at NLAG which may affect the quality of the service they were able to offer. Both Trusts came together to work under a combined clinical network model to ensure the delivery of safe services.

The Problem

In August 2018 the Senate was asked to advise on the longer-term strategy for this service, following a recent quality review and recognising that the NLAG service would remain unsustainable without long term clinical partnership. Specialised commissioning led on the development of a proposed clinical model and the Senate was asked to identify clinical concerns with the model and advise on whether this provided the best solution to patients given the workforce challenges.

Our Advice

The Senate advised:

- that the NLAG Trust cannot continue to provide a service without partnership with another provider.
- that the proposed clinical hub and spoke model has the potential to provide a good solution to patients, if there is the ability to retain a comprehensive outpatient service and day case chemotherapy at NLAG.
- that the relationship with the wider haematology service were made clearer.
- that the medical model and the clinical governance framework needed further consideration.

- that commissioner discussions to develop the service on to a single site were needed urgently.

Our Impact

The independent advice from the Clinical Senate gave us reassurance that the proposed clinical model was the best solution for patients and that there were no significant issues with this. Having the support of the Clinical Senate gave reassurance during the ongoing discussions between commissioners and providers that the model was clinically safe.

Testimonial

“Working with the Clinical Senate was a seamless process with advice and guidance available at each stage of the process. The discussions with the Senate review panel were helpful to identify where greater clarity within the plans was needed.”

Kevin Peters, Specialised Commissioning.



“Working with the Clinical Senate was a seamless process.”