

Case Study

The Working Together programme

– Hyper Acute Stroke Services Review

Background

The Working Together Programme for the review of stroke services is a collaboration of Health Commissioning Organisations across South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw and North Derbyshire. These organisations have recognised that improvements are needed in the quality, experience and outcomes of the stroke services. The Senate was approached by the Working Together Programme and asked

“Could the Senate advise on the HASU Case for Change and whether this provides a comprehensive review of the issues facing the services. Considering the Case for Change, can the Senate review the three proposed scenarios for service change and advise on any clinical concerns relating to any individual scenario?”

The Problem

Hyper acute stroke services in South Yorkshire and North Derbyshire were described in a national peer review process as ‘mediocre at best’.

- 3/5 of HASU centres admit less than 600 strokes per annum, the national minimum figure
- 2 of the stroke units are within 15 miles of each other but struggling to sustain their service
- There is a shortage of medical, nursing & therapy staffing in all provider organisations with unsustainable medical rotas
- There are issues with the quality of the service including door to needle times of over 1 hour in most cases, very low thrombolysis rates across all providers, a failure to achieve 1 hour scanning and gaps in early supported discharge
- Education & training is required for delegated staff

Our Advice

The Yorkshire and the Humber Clinical Senate reviewed the evidence provided by commissioners

- We cautioned commissioners against focusing on the Hyper Acute Stroke part of the pathway.

All aspects of the pathway needed to be brought under the remit of the review to achieve the required improvement in service

- We advised commissioners to focus on the development of a centralised model of HASU care as the only option to improve patient care
- We advised urgency in achieving service change given the concerns about the sustainability of the existing service
- We advised commissioners to work across boundaries to achieve a coherent service for all of Yorkshire and the Humber

Our Impact

- Smoothed the discussions between providers and commissioners on the necessity to change the service
- Increased the pace of change for the service
- Advised commissioners to increase the scale of their ambitions
- Our advice resulting in the production of a blue print for stroke services for Yorkshire and the Humber to ensure that services joined up across boundaries

Testimonial

“As managers involved in service transformation, we have found the Senate’s input to be invaluable in a number of ways - it gives us a clear, senior clinical appreciation of our options without fear of partisan bias and assures us that our plans are safe, clinically appropriate and sustainable. We feel confident to take our proposals to the public following this assurance. Moreover, the Senate have an appreciation of the wider strategic context within Yorkshire and the Humber, and then helps us consider our plans in light of wider developments which we might not otherwise have been alert to. The definition around roles, responsibility, timescales and contract that the Senate provide offer clarity and guidance and the support and timely response has been significantly beneficial.”



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