

**Dudley Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee Meeting
28th September 2011**

Improving Trauma Care across the West Midlands

The NHS in the West Midlands is proposing to transform the care people receive when they suffer major trauma by introducing an improved delivery model across the region. It is a national requirement in the NHS Operating Framework in England 2011/12 that all regions should be moving trauma service provision into regional trauma systems to improve clinical outcomes for major trauma patients. Sir David Nicholson, the NHS Chief Executive recognizing the need for change has asked that all regions begin the implementation of plans for major trauma by the end of March 2012.

The creation of such a system will concentrate the expertise, specialised services and patients into Major Trauma Centres, supported by Trauma Units and Local Emergency Hospitals bringing enormous benefits to patients. Evidence tells us that having such a system in place will: save more lives; reduce disability and improve major trauma patients' long term outcomes through improved access to specialised rehabilitation services.

A Trauma Care System is the name given to the partnership working between hospitals which will deliver the Trauma Care Services via a Trauma Network, in a given geographical area, for us this will be the West Midlands.

At the heart of the Trauma Network is the Major Trauma Centre (MTC). A Trauma Network should also include all providers of trauma care including ambulances and the air ambulance, other hospitals who receive acute trauma patients (Trauma Units) and Rehabilitation services. Trauma Units may also move patients who are severely injured to an MTC that can manage their injuries and will work with other centres, units and local emergency departments making their specialist services available across the network. Local Emergency Hospitals will still offer a full Accident and Emergency service however patients assessed with major trauma injuries would not be taken to the local emergency hospital but taken directly to the appropriate specialist centre for treatment. It should be noted that this applies to 1 or 2 patients a week.

The review is considering four options for major trauma services in the West Midlands:

- Three major trauma centres - at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham, the University Hospital of North Staffordshire and University Hospital Coventry and Warwickshire.
- Two major trauma centres - one at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham and one at the University Hospital of North Staffordshire.
- Two major trauma centres - one at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham and one at the University Hospital Coventry and Warwickshire.
- One major trauma centre at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham

In addition, the Birmingham Children's Hospital would be the West Midlands' Major Trauma Centre for Children.

Recommendations

That the HOSC:

- Note and support the review
- Consider the preferred option in October/November 2011
- Consider if public consultation or engagement is necessary

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