



Update to Healthier Communities & Adult Social Care Scrutiny & Policy Development Committee 29th September 2021

Report of: Sandie Buchan (Director of Commissioning Development, NHS Sheffield Clinical Commissioning Group)

Subject: Adult Dysfluency and Cleft Lip and Palate Service Update and Draft Consultation Plan

Author of Report: Kate Gleave, Deputy Director, Commissioning, NHS Sheffield Clinical Commissioning Group
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Summary:

The purpose of this paper is to inform the Committee of updates since the last meeting and also request a review of the consultation plan for the potential changes to the provision of dysfluency (stammer) and cleft, lip and palate services for adults within Sheffield.

Given the nature of ongoing discussions around the service, it is proposed that a verbal update is provided at the meeting too to ensure the committee is informed of the latest developments since the paper being drafted and the meeting.

Type of item: The report author should tick the appropriate box

Reviewing of existing policy	
Informing the development of new policy	
Statutory consultation	X
Performance / budget monitoring report	
Cabinet request for scrutiny	
Full Council request for scrutiny	
Call-in of Cabinet decision	
Briefing paper for the Scrutiny Committee	X
Other	

The Scrutiny Committee is being asked to:

The Committee is asked to review and approve the consultation plan

Background Papers:

Adult Dysfluency and Cleft Lip and Palate Service Paper, July 2021

Category of Report: OPEN

Adult Dysfluency and Cleft Lip and Palate Service Update and Draft Consultation Plan

1. Updates since last meeting

- Sheffield Children's NHS Foundation Trust (SCNHSFT) considered the July Committee's resolution to reinstate the service whilst the consultation process is undertaken.
- On 16/08/21 (SCNHSFT) confirmed they would re-open to new referrals until January 2022 with immediate effect. 11 people referred since the closure of the service from 1st April 2021 have been sent a letter to inform them about the decision to reopen and ask how they would like to be contacted throughout the process. Letters ask for feedback to understand the impact this situation has had on them and if there is anything that can be done to support them and mitigate any impacts. This involves 12 patients who have been referred into the dysfluency pathway. No referrals have been received during this time into the cleft pathway
- Once preferred method of contact is established, these individuals will be contacted to offer an appointment. Waiting times for these patients will commence from the date of the original referral so that no patient is disadvantaged.
- SCNHSFT have served notice to cease providing the service from 14th January 2022. The Trust acknowledges that transfer of current patients may need to move beyond 14th January depending on the progress of the Consultation and until any new service model is confirmed to facilitate appropriate transfers of care.
- The rationale for the Trust's decision remains as per the original decision, namely:
 - The Speech and Language Therapy (SLT) service is treating patient significantly outside of the Trust's normal (and extended) age range
 - There is limited capacity in the service which cannot meet all the demands placed upon it (e.g. adult v paediatric patients). Referrals into SCFT SLT service are increasing by 7.8% / year – resulting in a disparity between capacity and demand.
 - Lack of alignment with other therapy services for adults which hinders integration and provision of holistic care for these patients
- SCNHSFT have undertaken further analysis of the data and estimate that potential changes to service in the future are anticipated to impact:
 - 27 patients per year for dysfluency
 - 15 patients per year for cleft lip and palate
- In addition, it is anticipated that a number of patients over the ages of 16 (dysfluency) or 21 (cleft lip and palate) currently within the SCNHSFT service would potentially transition to a new provider. This could impact:
 - 32 patients for dysfluency
 - 30 patients for cleft lip and palate

- Sheffield CCG have been working closely with individuals and organisations who represent dysfluency patients throughout process to keep them informed and get their input.
- NHS England have been notified of the potential changes as part of the Major Service Change Assurance process and a meeting has been organised for 17th September.
- The Cleft Lip and Palate pathway has specialist commissioning involvement which has required further input from NHS England and the impact of this upon the consultation is being worked through.
- Two groups have been established across the CCG and provider that are specific to this process:
 - To manage the implementation of consultation plan
 - To undertake learning and development
- A quality equality impact assessment (known as (QEIA) process is underway and will be reviewed by the CCG internal QEIA group on the 4th October.
- A consultation plan has been jointly drafted by NHS Sheffield CCG and SCNHSFT and has been reviewed by patient representatives and the necessary governance structures within both organisations.

2. Recommendation

2.1. The committee is asked to:

2.1.1. Note the updates above

2.1.2. Review and approve the consultation plan documentation