



## Update to Healthier Communities & Adult Social Care Scrutiny & Policy Development Committee 26<sup>th</sup> January 2022

**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:** Hattie Myers, (Commissioning Manager), 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 on the dysfluency (stammer) and cleft, lip and palate services for adults within Sheffield. The paper provides updates on the Trust's current position, details engagement activities that are being undertaken and identifies next steps in the process.

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

Reviewing of existing policy	
Informing the development of new policy	
Statutory consultation	
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 note the update on the position on the adult Dysfluency and Cleft Lip and Palate services within Sheffield.

**Background Papers:**

Adult Dysfluency and Cleft Lip and Palate Service Paper, July 2021  
Adult Dysfluency and Cleft Lip and Palate Service Update and Draft  
Consultation Plan, Sept 2021

**Category of Report:** OPEN

## **Adult Dysfluency and Cleft Lip and Palate Service Update**

### **1. Background:**

- The Sheffield Children's NHS Foundation Trust (SCNHSFT) was invited to re-attend the Healthier Communities and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee on the 29<sup>th</sup> September 2021 but was unable to as this was at the same time as the Trust Annual Members Meeting. This was notified to the Committee in advance of the meeting. The paper at the committee presented the Trust's review of its decision to suspend as of 1<sup>st</sup> April the adult dysfluency and cleft palate speech and language services. The outcome from this review was for the Trust to reinstate the pathways, accepting all referrals until January 2022 but to cease the service thereafter.
- A full public consultation was due to start in early November. An additional Healthier Communities and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee meeting was scheduled for the 29<sup>th</sup> October to enable a further conversation with the Trust in advance of the consultation starting.

### **2. Updates since last meeting**

- In early October the Trust held conversations both with the management team and the Speech and Language Therapy team, as well as further correspondence with the CCG and from members of the public via the Healthier Communities and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee. This culminated in a further review of the decision by the Executive on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2021.
- The Trust's Executive Team decided that it would *not* cease providing services to adults in January 2022 but would continue to take referrals until there was suitable adult provision in place in Sheffield, working alongside the CCG. The Healthier Communities and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee were informed and the 29<sup>th</sup> October meeting was stood down pending discussions with the CCG on the way forward.
- During this process, discussions were initiated with NHS England (NHSE) Specialised Commissioning team as they are responsible for the commissioning of significant parts of the Cleft Lip and Palate pathway. Conversations are ongoing with NHSE, therefore the remit of the review has narrowed to overseeing the review of the dysfluency pathway only whilst the commissioning responsibilities for Cleft Lip and Palate are being worked through.
- In relation to the 12 patients whose referrals were originally rejected, all have been offered an appointment and 10 out of the 12 have attended an appointment. The two patients who have not attended are due to patient choice and a did not attend. There have been 10 further referrals since SCNHSFT re-opened to referrals.

### **3. Current position**

- The current SLT service at SCNHSFT continues to see patients as it has done throughout the pandemic and continues to accept new referrals.
- The Trust is still of the view that it is not in the best interest of adults to be seen in a paediatric setting and care should be transitioned to adult services as per other services. However, the Executive Team were of the view that there should not be a hard deadline to enable services to be in place for this transition to protect the health and well-being of the adults with those conditions.
- SCNHSFT and the CCG are working together and utilising a fortnightly Task and Finish Group to oversee the joint working.
- The QEIA remains a live document which is being reviewed and updated if new information is received
- A partner engagement meeting has been conducted with Sheffield CCG, SCNHSFT staff, STAMMA and a patient representative which reviewed all patient experience information over the past 3 years. The information was analysed as a group to identify themes and trends, which information was missing and therefore needed exploring further and whose voice was not heard.
- The group noted that there was actually quite limited feedback available (29 pieces of information). The initial view of this analysis was that whilst the feedback outlined the need for and impact of receiving a service, there has been little feedback in relation to service location, how the service is delivered and what outcomes are important to patients.

### **4. Next steps**

- The review of the patient experience information is being used to inform the development of an involvement plan. The Task and Finish Group are aware that the patient experience is limited based on the number of people who have utilised the service.
- Sheffield CCG and SCNHSFT are therefore collaborating on a process to identify gaps in our knowledge relating to patient experience that will enable us to develop a robust involvement plan. The involvement plan will enable us to capture the experience and preferences of people who have used the service in the past, those who are current patients and those who are potential patients.
- Key wider stakeholders also need to be heard to ensure that possible future options can be considered for service delivery and any issues, concerns, preferences and potential impacts are understood, as well as any potential solutions.

- The outcome of the further involvement will enable us to consider appropriate next steps in line with our statutory obligations and moral duties which will lead to the development of possible future options for consideration.

## **5. Recommendation**

5.1. The Committee is asked to:

5.1.1. Note the updates above

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