

TO: West Gloucestershire Primary Care Trust Board

FROM: Stephen Golledge, Chief Executive

DATE: 8th February 2005

**SUBJECT: INVESTING IN EXCELLENCE -
A Consultation on the Specialist Care of Mothers, Babies, Children
& Young People
*Recommendations from the Joint Sub-Committee***

1.0 Purpose

The purpose of this paper is to report to PCT Trust Boards on the outcome of the meeting of the Joint Sub-Committee convened to consider the outcomes of public consultation on proposals for change to intensive care for new-born babies and care of children who need in-patient hospital treatment in Gloucestershire and to receive their recommendations for consideration.

2.0 Background

In July 2003, Gloucestershire's Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) launched "Investing in Children & Young People". This began Patient and Public Involvement (PPI) to look at the future of maternity care and services for the sick child. The outcome of the PPI was taken to the Joint Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee (OSC) in July 2004 together with a plan for a public consultation. The OSC approved the Consultation Plan and a period of public consultation took place from 7 September to 7 December 2004.

Through the early part of the review it was felt that most of the maternity services and services for sick children were meeting people's needs. The 2 key proposals for change contained in the consultation document focused on 2 aspects of specialist hospital care:-

- i. High Dependency and Neo-natal Intensive Care
- ii. Children's Specialist Hospital In-Patient Care

The proposal was that these specialist services should be located either at Cheltenham General Hospital or Gloucestershire Royal Hospital. The Consultation Document set out the merits of each hospital as the location for these 2 services and stated a preference for Gloucestershire Royal Hospital.

The Primary Care Trusts, as commissioners of health services, led the public consultation. There was however active involvement from Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust given that the need for change emerged from the Trust.

3.0 Joint PCTs Sub-Committee

3.1 *Terms of Reference*

The Terms of Reference for the Joint Sub-Committee are attached at Annex 1 to this report. Each PCT was represented by 5 members drawn from its Board and

Professional Executive Committee. The Committee was Chaired by Elizabeth Law, Chair of Cotswold & Vale PCT, given this PCT's lead role for commissioning of Children's Services.

3.2 *Process*

The Committee met on the evening of 19 January 2005. In advance of the meeting, each member had received papers which included:-

- A meeting agenda/the Committee's Terms of Reference
- A Framework for Recommendations
- A Consultation Outcome Report
- A response from Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
- A report from the Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee for Gloucestershire

Elizabeth Law welcomed members, set out the purpose of the meeting and the proposed arrangements. This was a meeting in public – although not a public meeting. Also in attendance were a number of members of the Battledown Campaign Group, the prospective Parliamentary candidate for the Liberal Democrats in Cheltenham, two members from the Press and 6 members of staff from the Hospitals Trust and PCTs.

Richard Higgins, Project Director for the Consultation, took members through the Consultation Outcome Report suggesting key points for the Committee to determine. Elizabeth Law referred members to the response from the Hospitals Trust and read an extract from the introductory letter from Dame Janet Trotter. Finally, Richard James updated the Committee on final recommendations from the OSC meeting which had been held that same morning i.e. 19 January.

Members of the Committee then went on to discuss issues arising from these 3 documents and to test and explore issues further with Dr Guy Routh, Medical Director of Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, who was also in attendance. The Joint Sub-Committee then worked through a number of decisions before turning to consideration of its main recommendations to PCT Boards. Key decisions made in relation to the Consultation Outcome report, when taken together with the response from the Hospitals Trust and the OSC, included that:-

- The consultation process had identified the right issues and these had been given adequate consideration.
- There were a number of learning points from the consultation, particularly the balance of detail made available on the basis of consultation and the need for clinical consensus about proposed changes.
- That the package of proposals was indivisible.
- That the need for change was accepted.
- That locating services on one site was the only workable solution, whilst recognising the views of specific local communities about this proposal.

The notes from the Sub-Committee meeting are attached at Annex 2 to this Report. Enclosed with the Board papers is a set of the papers received by the Joint Sub-Committee. These include the Consultation Outcome Report, the response for

Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and the report from the OSC. The OSC Report has been updated to include the final recommendations from their meeting on 19th January.

3.3 *Recommendations from the Joint Sub-Committee*

Having reached a view about key issues from the Consultation Outcome Report, the Committee moved on to consider the package of proposals together with issues to do with implementation and overnight in-patient accommodation at Cheltenham General Hospital. The Joint Committee agreed that the following recommendations should be put forward to the 3 Primary Care Trust Boards as follows:-

The Package of Proposals

- To locate intensive and high dependency care for newborn babies and the children's in-patient ward at Gloucestershire Royal Hospital.
- To retain Special Care Baby Units and neo-natal resuscitation at both Cheltenham General and Gloucestershire Royal Hospitals.
- To retain Paediatric (Children's) Assessment Units at both hospitals with 7 day a week opening between 9.00 am and 10.00 pm at Cheltenham General Hospital.
- To invest in children's home and community nursing adding 6 staff to the current complement to create a countywide service.

Implementation

- That the Implementation Plan should cover the main issues identified through the consultation as set out in paragraph 3.1 of the Consultation Outcome Report and during the course of the Sub-Committee meeting.
- That the Implementation Plan should be published within two months.
- That the Primary Care Trusts test the validity of the Implementation Plan and assure themselves that the issues raised by their respective populations had been addressed.
- That progress on the preparation of the Implementation Plan be reported to the OSC at its meeting on 2 March 2005.

Overnight In-Patient Accommodation at Cheltenham General Hospital

- To recommend to the 3 PCT Boards that the Children's Health Planning Group be commissioned to lead an option appraisal and prepare a report on alternative approaches for nurse led care – the report to be completed within 2 months to be considered alongside the Trust's Implementation Plan. Attached for note at Annex 3 is the proposed Project Brief for the option appraisal.

The Joint Sub-Committee agreed that it had discharged its functions according to its Terms of Reference. The notes of the Joint Sub-Committee meeting have been agreed by all members present.

4.0 **Recommendations to the PCT Board**

The PCT Board is asked to:-

- I. consider and approve the recommendations from the Joint Sub-Committee as set out at section 3.3.
- II. note the further work delegated to the Children's Health Planning Group on the option appraisal and the proposed Project Brief.

