

**Social Care and Health  
Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

**Agenda  
Item No.**

**DATE: 13<sup>th</sup> September, 2018**

**9.**

**Title of the Report**

**Ward(s)** All

**Report:**

**Progress of reconfigured model of care for stroke services - Walsall CCG**

Members will recall from previous reports to the HOSC that, following a period of public consultation, and after receiving approval to the CCG stroke reconfiguration plan from the West Midlands Clinical Senate and NHSE, the hyper acute and acute parts of the stroke pathway were successfully transferred to a newly refurbished HASU/ASU facility at New Cross Hospital from April 11<sup>th</sup> 2018. The Transient Ischaemic Attack (TIA) clinic was transferred at the same time as it is a consultant led service

The stroke rehabilitation services in Walsall have remained the same as previously provided except that the stroke ward at Walsall manor was re-designated as a rehabilitation facility for stroke patients requiring the greatest clinical need (Level 4 & 5 patient on the stroke rehabilitation pathway).

The latest data available from RWT shows that from April to August 2018, 95 Walsall patients were conveyed to New Cross by ambulance, with 81 being confirmed as having suffered a stroke and 14 displaying symptoms similar to a stroke (stroke mimics). On average this equates to New Cross receives 16 patients per month (4 per week), which is slightly lower than originally anticipated.

The Stroke Project Board overseeing the transfer of stroke services continues to meet as and when necessary.

## **Reported Issues.**

Since April 2018, two issues have presented:

1) Two patients exhibiting non-emergency stroke/TIA symptoms were referred to Walsall Manor, and conveyed by the 'urgent' patient transport service, and upon arrival at the hospital both patients were immediately conveyed to New Cross where they received the appropriate care. West Midlands Ambulance Service has reinforced the agreed pathway with all operational staff, and the CCG has reminded all GP practices in Walsall of the agreed pathway and will continue to monitor referrals in future, and these occurrences will form part of the CCG's 12 monthly clinical audit. There have been no further occurrences of this nature.

2) New Cross have reported that they are currently sending patients over to Walsall with speech and language therapy needs but Walsall Manor do not completely meet the guidelines for speech and language care after stroke, and report that this may sometimes cause a delay for patients that stay in their acute unit longer than strictly necessary. More recently, this has not presented as an issue and both trusts are in discussion to resolve this permanently.

In conclusion the transfer of services on April 11<sup>th</sup> 2018 overall went very smoothly and there have not been any reported problems with the acute side of the pathway. The two issues described above have either been resolved or are in the process of being resolved.

Finally Walsall Healthcare Trust report that they are actively considering a location in the community for the level 4 & 5 rehabilitation services that are currently housed at Walsall Manor hospital, and this will be re-presented to the HOSC and commissioners at the appropriate time.

## **Recommendations:**

**That:**

The update is noted.

**Prof. Simon Brake**

Chief Officer - Walsall Clinical Commissioning Group