

**REPORT TO:** Health Policy and Performance Board

**DATE:** 5 March 2013

**REPORTING OFFICER:** Strategic Director - Communities

**PORTFOLIO:** Health and Adults

**SUBJECT:** Vascular Services across Cheshire and Merseyside

**WARD(S)** Borough-wide

## 1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To consider the Secretary of State (SoS) for Health's response to the referral made to him from the Halton, St Helens and Warrington Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC) regarding the development of Vascular Services across Cheshire and Merseyside and agree an appropriate way forward.

## 2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That the Board

**1. note the contents of the report and associated appendices; and**

**2. consider the options for receiving information and influencing the development of vascular services in the future (outlined in paragraph 3.5).**

## 3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 Further to the joint HOSC's formal referral to the SoS for Health on 3rd October 2012, regarding the proposals for the future development of vascular services across Cheshire and Merseyside not being in the interests of the health service in the area, a response from the SoS has now been received. (**Appendix 1**)

3.2 The SoS had asked the Independent Reconfiguration Panel (IRP) to undertake an initial review of the referral made and on the advice of the IRP has decided not to agree a full review. Details of the information supplied to the SoS from the IRP is attached at **Appendix 2**.

3.3 The implication of this decision is that the proposal for an arterial centre based at the Countess of Chester will now proceed. However there is some acknowledgement that there will be some considerable challenges to be met prior to implementation.

3.4 The SoS is recommending that local commissioners of NHS Services invite the National Clinical Advisory Team (NCAT) to re-examine whether the current proposals meet the requirements for a modern vascular network in South Merseyside, particularly in light of the concerns raised from surgeons at Arrowe Park Hospital and the updated guidance from the Vascular Society of Great Britain and Ireland. The SoS has asked that this work be undertaken as a matter of urgency and should be overseen by the Strategic Health Authority.

3.5 The SoS also acknowledges the need that local HOSC's should be fully involved and informed of developments throughout the design phase and as such Halton, St Helens and Warrington Councils need to consider whether they want to continue to receive information and influence this development via the Joint HOSC or as individual HOSCs.

#### 4.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 There are no policy implications as a direct result of this report.

#### 5.0 **OTHER/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 None identified at this stage.

#### 6.0 **IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

##### 6.1 **Children & Young People in Halton**

There are no specific implications as a direct result of this report, however the health needs of children and young people are an integral part of the Health priority.

##### 6.2 **Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton**

None identified.

##### 6.3 **A Healthy Halton**

The remit of the Health Policy and Performance Board is directly linked to this priority.

##### 6.4 **A Safer Halton**

None identified.

##### 6.5 **Halton's Urban Renewal**

None identified.

#### 7.0 **RISK ANALYSIS**

7.1 Appropriate consideration will need to be given to associated risks identified as part of the on-going development of Vascular Services in Cheshire and Merseyside.

8.0 **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

8.1 Any service which seeks to address the health needs of Halton needs to be fully accessible.

9.0 **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

9.1 None under the meaning of the Act.