

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 There are three papers for the committee to consider. The first is the rationale for centralisation of gynaecological cancer surgery.
- 1.2 The second is the independent clinical review with its recommendation for the creation of a second specialist gynaecological cancer surgery centre for the peninsula. The existing specialist centre, in Exeter, was also assessed by the reviewers.
- 1.3 The third paper is the first draft of the engagement plan for people who might be affected by the creation of the proposed second centre. This plan has been jointly developed by Cornwall, Devon and Plymouth PCTs.

2.0 Executive summary

- 2.1 This proposal highlights the real strength and value in creating specialist surgical centres to treat patients with rarer cancers. Just as upper gastro-intestinal cancer surgery will be centred in Plymouth to improve patient outcomes, gynaecological cancer surgery is proposed to be centred in Truro and Exeter. All proposals are focused on ensuring that patients with these rarer cancers get the right treatment, survive their illness and have a better quality of life.
- 2.2 Primary care trusts serving Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly are expected to implement national guidance on gynaecological cancer services, so that women receive the best treatment and in the right location.
- 2.3 The peninsula's sole specialist surgical centre is at the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital in Exeter. There are also two cancer units: the Royal Cornwall Hospital, Truro, and Derriford Hospital, Plymouth.
- 2.4 The creation of a second specialist centre has been endorsed with the National Cancer Action Team to serve women in the south west of the peninsula, in line with the national guidance. This would offer patients the same advantages as those currently treated at Exeter.
- 2.5 All treatment other than surgery would continue to be provided, as currently, at local hospitals. This includes initial appointments, chemotherapy and radiotherapy. A large proportion of surgery for some gynaecological cancers would also continue to be provided locally, in line with the national guidance.
- 2.6 The independent clinical review of gynaecological services recommends that the second specialist centre be created at Royal Cornwall Hospital. This clinical recommendation is the important first step in deciding where the centre should be located and, if accepted by the OSCs and PCT Boards, represents a significant service improvement for patients in the south west of the peninsula.
- 2.7 The review also describes the Exeter service, serving women from Torbay and most of the NHS Devon area, as "exemplary".
- 2.8 If the proposal is accepted, there are a number of patients who currently go to Derriford Hospital for their surgery and who would in future need to travel to Truro or Exeter. We intend to involve patients in helping to work out the impacts and how we could reduce those impacts. The enclosed draft engagement plan sets out our proposed approach. This draft plan is being shared with LINKs at the same time as with the OSCs so that their views can also be included.

2.9 A health impact assessment will be carried out by Plymouth PCT and this will measure the impact on all patients affected by the change. We anticipate this will be presented to the next round of OSC meetings as part of our ongoing commitment to involve members in our proposals for improving healthcare.

3.0 Recommendation

3.1 The Committee is recommended to resolve to:

- Receive and note the independent clinical review
- Endorse the proposed engagement plan