

9 June 2016		ITEM: 5
Health and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee		
Specialised Commissioning – East of England Overview		
Wards and communities affected: None	Key Decision: Not Applicable	
Report of: Jessamy Kinghorn, Head of Communications; Ruth Ashmore, Assistant Director of Specialised Commissioning		
Accountable Head of Service: Ruth Ashmore, Assistant Director of Specialised Commissioning – East of England		
Accountable Director: Catherine O’Connell, Regional Director of Specialised Commissioning		
This report is Public		

Executive Summary

This report provides an overview of the specialised commissioning function within NHS England and its current priorities for 2016/17. Specialised services account for around 14% of the total NHS budget and are often extremely complex, rare and usually high cost. NHS England has commissioned these services since April 2013.

The specialised nature of these services mean that they tend to be consolidated in fewer centres than other services to enable the development of sufficient skills and experience to provide safe, high quality care. There are some exceptions to this with specialised services such as chemotherapy widely available.

New technologies and drugs usually enter the NHS through specialised services which means these services need to be able to adapt to cope with changes in demand and the introduction of newer, more effective treatments, and to policy changes as more evidence becomes available. The NHS will continue to evaluate and, where appropriate, invest in new treatments and services.

The report provides a brief outline of the national direction of travel and the anticipated work programme within the East of England in relation to specialised services. It also outlines the regional specialised commissioning team’s proposed approach to communications and engagement for complex service reviews.

The report is presented in a PowerPoint format as this has been found to be helpful in sharing information of this nature.

1. Recommendation(s)

1.1 The Committee is asked NOTE the contents of this report

2. Appendices to the report

2.1 PowerPoint Slides for Commissioning Specialised Services.

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