

# **Heath and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee**

**7 March 2022**

## **Proposal to change neonatal services in Western Sussex**

### **Report by Director of Law and Assurance**

#### **Summary**

The NHS has a statutory duty to consult the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee on any proposals it may have under consideration which may constitute a substantial development or variation in service. The Committee's Business Planning Group received an update in early February 2022 on the proposal to change neonatal services at St. Richard's Hospital Chichester and agreed that this should be considered at the Committee's next meeting on 7 March 2022. Details of the proposal provided by NHS England are attached at Appendices A to C.

#### **Focus for scrutiny**

For the Committee to assess the NHS England proposal to change neonatal services at St. Richard's Hospital Chichester and determine whether this constitutes a substantial variation in the provision of service, and if so, whether it requires further scrutiny. In carrying out this assessment, the Committee should refer to the guidance for determining NHS service change proposals attached at Appendix D. Key areas of focus for scrutiny include:

- 1) The reasons for the proposed change, and whether it will improve patient outcomes and improve clinical quality
- 2) How the proposed change will impact on parents/carers and families
- 3) Whether the proposal will impact on other services at St. Richard's Hospital Chichester
- 4) The views of the relevant NHS provider organisations
- 5) Any consultation or engagement to be carried out

The Chairman will summarise the debate, which will then be shared with NHS England.

## **1. Background and context**

- 1.1 The background and context to this item for scrutiny are set out in Appendix 1. There are no resource or risk implications directly affecting West Sussex County Council, as this is a report by the NHS, relating to NHS services.
- 1.2 In assessing whether this proposal is a substantial variation, the Committee should consider the Checklist for NHS Service Change Proposals

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### **Appendices**

**Appendix A:** Report from NHS England

**Appendix B:** Presentation on Neonatal Services

**Appendix C:** Communications and Engagement Strategy

**Appendix D:** Checklist for NHS Service Change Proposals

**Background Papers:** None