

<b>Meeting:</b>	<b>Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals NHS Trust Board of Directors</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>30<sup>th</sup> November 2015</b>
<b>Board Sponsor:</b>	<b>Deputy Chief Executive</b>
<b>Paper Author:</b>	<b>Network Manager</b>
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Sussex Vascular Network</b>

### **Executive summary**

This report describes progress to date in the development of the Sussex Vascular Network, which is hosted by the Trust, and the further developments planned within the network.

Overall, the Sussex Network is one of the most advanced in the country.

<b>Links to corporate objectives</b>	This report supports the Trust corporate objective of <b><i>delivering the clinical strategy</i></b>
<b>Identified risks and risk management actions</b>	Uncertainty around network funding for 2016/17 and the associated HR risk for BSUH.
<b>Resource implications</b>	Resources are associated with further appointments within the service as described within the report
<b>Report history</b>	The Trust Annual General Meeting received an earlier report on progress with the Network
<b>Appendices</b>	None

### **Action required by the Board**

The Board is asked to note the report and the progress made with the Sussex Vascular Network

## **Report to the Board of Directors, 30<sup>th</sup> November 2015 Sussex Vascular Network**

### **Sussex Vascular Network**

The Sussex Vascular Network has made significant progress since its formal establishment in February 2014.

The network is centred around RSCH as the hub for major arterial surgery for Sussex, with spoke hospitals across the county. The development of the model, which was proposed by the Vascular Society of Great Britain & Ireland in 2011, has involved considerable collaborative working with the acute providers, NHS England and commissioners across Sussex.

### **Progress to date**

Progress against implementing the fully agreed clinical model of care has included:

- Increasing the number of network Consultant Vascular Surgeons, from 6 to 9
- Each spoke hospital, except one, is now supported by a Vascular Nurse Specialist which has improved the patient pathway significantly
- There is now a 24/7 Interventional Radiology rota supporting the provision of vascular services
- A well-functioning Multidisciplinary team has been established and is continuing to develop to facilitate full discussion across organisations and specialties
- Bed and theatre capacity have been made within the hub to accommodate the additional activity, and improve access and egress to the specialist centre
- The onward care policy has been reviewed and remains under review to ensure smooth pathways for patients across the network

### **Further developments**

The outstanding requirements to fulfil the complete model of care include:

- One further Consultant Vascular Surgeon to support East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust
- One further Vascular Nurse Specialist post to support Princess Royal Hospital, and support the hub Nurse Specialist
- Development of a network of vascular laboratories to support the pathways across the county, and ensure patients can receive appropriate care as close to their home as possible

Sussex is one of the most progressed areas nationally in terms of implementing the national service specification, and the recently published Vascular Society Provision of Vascular Services document. However, this is not to say that the Network has

achieved all it set out to do. The focus of the network has changed in recent months from developing the infrastructure for the model to understanding how to improve pathways, ranging from those for patients with diabetic foot problems to lymphoedema, and how to ensure equity to the best quality pathways regardless of where they are being accessed from.

Mechanisms to share information across the network are being established through the vascular nurse specialists which will support good communication and streamline the patient pathway, as well as enable auditing of the pathways, and ensuring they are the best possible quality. A means to raise and address network clinical governance concerns has been initiated in order to continue the development and improvement process of the network pathways of care. This will also provide us with information to identify where there are any gaps in service provision that require commissioning support to address.

There is currently uncertainty as to the future funding of the Network support team (network manager and clinical lead). Historically this has come from NHS England but is not currently included within their commissioning intentions for 2016/17. There is therefore a potential risk that this funding will cease from the end of March 2016. This risk is being addressed collaboratively with the network partner organisations, as well as NHS England, and there is the potential for resource implications for BSUH dependent on the outcome of the NHS England review.

**Barbara Rayner**  
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**November 2015**