



To: Health and Social Care Scrutiny Board (5)

Date: Wednesday 6th November 2013

Subject: Consideration of proposals by NHS Blood and Transplant to make changes to the operation of workplace bloodmobile sessions in the West Midlands.

1 Purpose of the Note

- 1.1 NHS Blood and Transplant (NHSBT) has been invited to the meeting to discuss proposals currently out for consultation proposing changes to their operation of workplace bloodmobile sessions. These sessions operate from large scale employer premises providing convenient opportunities for staff to donate blood without the need to take periods of absence from work.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 The Board are requested to consider the Briefing Note and any further information submitted by NHSBT at the meeting and submit any views on the consultation formally following the meeting.

3 Information/Background

- 3.1 NHSBT is a Special Health Authority co-ordinating blood donation and organ donation in England and Wales, meeting the needs of NHS hospitals in across the UK. They further provide a range of additional specialist services related to blood and tissue, stem cells and diagnostic services, as well as a research and development function.
- 3.2 According to the NHSBT website there are currently 10 local centres across the City for blood collection, working on varying collection schedules. The best known and most frequent of these is Methodist Central Hall in the City Centre. NHSBT also report that as of 3rd January 2013 6,542 Coventry residents regularly donate blood (2.05% of the population).
- 3.3 Like all NHS organisations they are facing financial challenges. One of the proposals they have made to reduce costs is for the current practice of regular workplace collections of blood across the West Midlands being ended. Blood collection from the range of community centres and other locations across Coventry and the West Midlands would be continued, and offered to donors as an alternative. NHSBT has not sought the views of local authorities or other local stakeholders in making this proposal.
- 3.4 The Board's Chair has written to NHSBT to highlight a number of concerns regarding this proposal, their response is included as Appendix A to this Briefing Note.
- 3.5 Additionally NHSBT has been asked to consider a number of follow up questions, responses to which it is anticipated will be provided at the meeting:

- What evidence is there that people will still give blood if they have to travel to NHSBT rather than have it come to them?
- Has NHSBT done any assessment of employers' willingness to let staff have time off to walk across town? Many employers will give people the 45 minutes three times a year, which probably encourages some donors, but are unlikely to do so if it means they go off-site during work hours.
- Have they done any assessment of how many donors are first attracted by the opportunity to go with a colleague or someone they know? How will loss of workplace donation affect that?

3.6 It has been confirmed by NHSBT that Jane Pearson and Laura Hontoria del Hoyo (Assistant Directors in the Blood Supply Directorate) will attend the meeting to brief Members on the consultation and provide further information and explanation of the proposed change.

For more information about NHS Blood and Transplant – www.nhsbt.nhs.uk

For more information about blood collections, and opportunities to donate in Coventry – www.blood.co.uk

28th October 2013.

Briefing Note Author:

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