

**EAST KENT HOSPITALS UNIVERSITY NHS FOUNDATION TRUST**

REPORT TO: **BOARD OF DIRECTORS – 28 FEBRUARY 2014**

SUBJECT: **CENTRALISATION OF HIGH RISK SURGERY**

REPORT FROM: **Medical Director**

PURPOSE: **Decision**

**CONTEXT / REVIEW HISTORY / STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT**

An extraordinary Board Meeting was held on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2014 and the option of centralising all high risk elective and emergency surgery at the Kent and Canterbury Hospital (option E) as an interim solution was agreed by the Trust Board. The Trust Board accepted that the patient safety issues that would result if no action was taken were unacceptable agreed that consideration should be undertaken as an urgent safety measure and implemented by May 2014.

This decision now needs to be agreed formally by a fully constituted Public Board of Directors meeting.

Further stakeholder engagement and public consultation will need to take place in due course to agree the permanent solution.

**SUMMARY:**

The purpose of this paper is to detail a serious clinical risk that has arisen in general surgery around the ability to provide a safe and sustainable emergency surgery rota at the WHH and to look at the implications of a set of options that remedy the issue. A number of different risks emerge depending on each option and these have been identified in the more detailed analysis undertaken in section six. Each option also has different capital and revenue costs.

The recommendation to centralise all high risk elective and emergency surgery at the Kent and Canterbury Hospital (option E) as an interim solution was made to the extraordinary Trust Board.

**IMPACT ON TRUST'S STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES:**

This is key to the Trust's success in delivering on its strategic objectives from a patient safety perspective as well as being part of the agreed clinical strategy.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**

There are revenue and capital financial implications for each option.

**LEGAL IMPLICATIONS / IMPACT ON THE PUBLIC SECTOR EQUALITY DUTY:**

Actions to resolve the patient safety issues identified are required immediately to provide an interim solution. Stakeholder engagement and Public Consultation will be required to agree a permanent solution.

A Public Sector Equality Duty is relevant to this report and an equality analysis is attached.

**PROFESSIONAL ADVICE TAKEN ON ANY NOVEL OR CONTENTIOUS ISSUES**

Advice has been sought and received from a representative from the Royal College of Surgeons who has endorsed the recommendation.

**BOARD ACTION REQUIRED:**

(a) to consider the recommendations and either support, reject or modify

**CONSEQUENCES OF NOT TAKING ACTION:**

Patient safety issues may occur because of the inability to provide a safe emergency surgical rota at WHH.