

Comments from Councillor Wiseman; Vice-Chair of the Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee

I visited the hospital in November 2010 and was luckily able to visit the vascular laboratories in the Radiography Department.

In York there is one cardiac laboratory and one general vascular one which has been purpose built in the past few years.

As far as cardiology is concerned the latest 'gold standard' for post heart attacks is now to unblock the artery which is blocked by intervention first and then, if that is not possible, to use 'clot busting' drugs.

For the past 20 years, our Cardiologists have undertaken the Angiograms with the actual Angioplasty taking place at Leeds on a sessional basis. Now we have these facilities in York and procedures can be done immediately and on site. This obviously means there is a much improved service for our residents. The three interventional Cardiologists now perform Angioplasty (stent to the blocked artery) on a daily basis and have recently opened up a 24hour emergency service. Because of the depth of their experience the service we receive in York is second to none in my opinion.

The Hospital has recently employed an Interventional Radiologist who works with the Vascular Surgeons who are now performing Aortic Aneurism repairs, carotid endarterectomys etc. I believe this service is for elected patients or emergencies during day hours, but the service will ultimately be opened up to be a 24hour service.

As Members will probably know the York Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust has been approached by Scarborough to be joined with York. These talks are in their infancy (as of November 2011) but the possibility might be that vascular services will include the Scarborough area as well. At present the Cardiologist comes to York once a week to do the Interventional Angiograms on patients from Scarborough. So, I fully believe we are very lucky to have not only the facilities but the talented staff to offer this service to our residents.

Reading the consultation document I feel that little will change for us in York but I would like to see the Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee reinforce our continued support for the services as they are now, with no change to their delivery.

I would, therefore, as a Member of the Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee like the above comments and the following statements to be taken into consideration when the Committee are responding to the consultation.

Suggestions for inclusion in any response the Committee may choose to make on the consultation document

Question 1 What is your overall view of the proposal for changes to vascular services as described in the consultation document?

Positive way forward to provide a service of the highest standards of quality care.

Question 2 Do you feel that the changes will affect you in a positive way? If 'yes' please explain.

Yes! Providing specialist care from centres with experienced clinicians would improve care outcomes for all vascular patients.

Question 3 Do you feel that the changes will affect you in a negative way? If 'yes' please explain.

Possible geographical travel inconvenience but this would be outweighed by the positive reasons.

Question 4 What are the issues we need to consider if these changes go ahead?

Consultation with all stakeholders. No reduction in any services we have at present.

Question 5 Are there any other comments you would like to make?

York provides a complex and exceptionally good service with many experienced and talented clinicians. New facilities providing potentially a more improved service.