Review of Diagnostic Imaging Services In Northern Ireland

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Context – Organisational Structure

Minister/Department

- PHA
- HSCB (including LCGs)

- BSO
- RQIA
- PCC
- Agencies

Key Stakeholders including: Service Users, GPs, Independent & Private Sector, & Voluntary & Community
Context - NI population 1.82m
Context – NI Imaging 2017/18

**Radiologists**
- Approx 135 Radiologists
- 40+ vacant posts
- Pressures in Breast, Paediatric, IR

**Radiographers**
- 850 HC / 757 wte
- 24 reporting radiographers
- Key gaps in specialist areas e.g. MRI

**Exams**
- 100,000 MRI
- 190,000 CT
- 220,000 NOUS
- 240,000 other exams
- 1.1m Plain Film
- **1.8m exams**
Planning for 2\textsuperscript{nd} PET ongoing

Trust’s have responsibility for capital equipment

No regional oversight / management of priorities

Replacement not always timely

Key consideration for Imaging Board
Context - Modernising Radiology Clinical Network

- Clinical Directors of Radiology
- Radiology Services Managers
- NIPACS Systems Manager
- Public Health Medicine / AHPs
- Information Analyst
- GPs
- Dir / AD Acute Services and Performance
- Medical Physics
- Specialist Advice e.g. Neuro / IR

MRCN Network Manager
Review of Diagnostic Imaging in NI

• 2011/12 RQIA investigation of unreported plain films
  – Establish radiology clinical network
  – Regional review of diagnostic imaging

• 2013
  – Modernising Radiology Clinical Network established
  – ToR for Imaging Review approved by Minister

• Feb 2014
  – Formal Project Board for Imaging Review established

• 2014 – 2015
  – Clinical Workstreams formed and reports prepared
Imaging Review Project Structure
Imaging Review – Workstream Outputs

- Current Service
- 8 Guiding Principles
- Horizon Planning
- Optimal Service
- Gap Analysis
Review of Diagnostic Imaging in NI

• Feb 2016
  – First draft of Strategic Framework and Recommendations

• October 2016
  – Ministerial directive to plan for consultation in February 2017 in line with NI Strategy “Delivering Together”

• February 2017
  – Collapse of Stormont Assembly

• November 2017
  – Agreement from DoH to proceed to public consultation

• June 2018
  – Final draft Strategic Framework and 19 Recommendations
  – Awaiting legal advice on publication in absence of Minister
Early Recommendations from Imaging Review

- Increase in the number of training places for radiologists
- A single RIS/PACS for Northern Ireland
- NI-wide Programme for ISAS Accreditation
Early Recommendation – Training Places

Radiology Training Places NI 2005/06 to 2019/20

- Increase of 2 places due to "crisis" in breast radiology
- Imaging Review

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Early Recommendation - NIPACS

- NIPACS Replacement
- To include option for single RIS/PACS in NI
Early Recommendation – ISAS

- NI-wide programme established
- NR funding of 0.9m secured over 3 years
- 5 x Band 7 Lead ISAS Radiographers in post
- 3 x Lead ISAS Radiologists in post
- Regional ISAS Lead
- Admin support – hopefully!!
Examples of Other Early Wins

- Paediatric scoping group implemented pathway improvements and formalised regional network
- Funding provided to improve cardiac fetal anomaly scanning training in each Trust
- Recurrent funding allocated to imaging services to address demand and capacity gaps
- Increase in reporting radiographers
- IR consumables VFM via regional tender
- Pilot of regional reporting network for plain film
Reflection on Process of Imaging Review

- Strong and Accountable Programme Board
- DoH and Clinical Lead co-chairs
- External Reference Group
- Committed clinical leadership from radiology, cardiology, obstetrics, medical physics etc.
- Fully functioning and engaged MRCN
- **Ability to implement change from the start**
Development of an Imaging Board for NI

• Outline model (s)
• Design workshop planned for September 2018
• Welcome UK wide input / attendance
• Aim to have Imaging Board operational by Jan 2019
• Implementation of the wider detail/workstream plans will be progressed in interim
Thank You!

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