Development of the IVF policy for the Black Country, Birmingham, and Solihull

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**Background**

- Seven CCGs working together across West Midlands (The Black Country, Birmingham, and Solihull)
- Different policies inherited from eight PCTs
- SWB CCG has two policies from new boundaries
- “Postcode lottery” – treatment varies depending on where people live
- Existing situation is inequitable
Locally in Sandwell

- Two cycles of treatment is currently offered to old Sandwell PCT patients
- One cycle is offered to old Heart of Birmingham PCT patients
- There is inequity of access to treatment in our CCG
Clinical case for change

- Reviewed eligibility criteria for NHS-funded treatment, based on clinical evidence and best practice

  ➢ number of cycles offered

  ➢ Age of male and female

  ➢ Non-smoker

  ➢ BMI <30 kg/m²

  ➢ Expansion to single sex couples, single females and younger women with confirmed infertility
Clinical Case for Change

Number of cycles offered

• Improvements in techniques locally, even since NICE guidelines, offer greater chance of success first time – 35% compared with 25%

• Success rates reduce for each subsequent cycle – 20% less likely to be successful on second attempt
Consultation and Engagement

- Engagement took place for 6 weeks from January to March 2014
- 500 paper questionnaires distributed to GP practices, community groups, children’s centres, IVF providers and special interest groups
- Questionnaire available on the CCG website
What the survey told us

• 78% of all respondents agreed that it is important the policy for IVF treatment is consistent wherever you live across Birmingham, the Black Country and Solihull.

• 34% of the sample endorsed a policy of only one cycle per qualifying patient.

• 48% wanted to increase the number of cycles offered

• 7% wanted to stop offering IVF on the NHS

• 31% agreed with not supporting those who had previous infertility treatment.

• There is a clear mandate from patients to harmonise
Engagement with Sandwell and Birmingham Health Scrutiny Committees

• Birmingham support the standardised adoption of a single cycle of treatment, but could not support a situation in which access for west Birmingham was different to the rest of the city even if only for a finite period.

• Sandwell Health Scrutiny Board indicated support for the principle of establishing consistency of access, but not for the reduction from two cycles of treatment to one. The Board asked SWBCCG to consider deferring its implementation of the policy in Sandwell until May 2016.
The Committees views on implementation

- Does the Joint Health Scrutiny Committee wish to
- Fully implement the policy across Sandwell and west Birmingham with immediate effect

or

- Accept the recommendation from Sandwell Health Scrutiny Board to defer implementation of the policy in Sandwell until May 2016, accepting that this would create an inequality across the Sandwell and west Birmingham boundary.