

Lecture Title:	Reconfiguration of Cytology Laboratories – Light at the End of the Tunnel
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Abstract	<p>South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw Specialist Commissioning Group are responsible for commissioning cervical cytology services on behalf of five PCTs – Barnsley, Bassetlaw, Doncaster, Rotherham and Sheffield serving an eligible population for cervical screening of approximately 350,000 women equating to 96,000 tests per year. The drivers for the procurement scheme were to achieve as a minimum the Cancer Reform Strategy and NHSCSP targets</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All women will receive the results of their screening tests within two weeks of it being taken¹ • All women with suspected cervical cancer detected through the NHSCSP will wait a maximum of 62 days to their first treatment¹ • To work towards the reconfiguration of laboratory services as described in the Carter Review² • To deliver improved quality, affordable and Value for Money (VfM) • To make more effective use of scarce resources to smooth out the peaks and troughs of workload <p>This presentation describes the processes that Sheffield went through to win the tender highlighting areas of good practice and the pitfalls to be aware of when entering this process.</p>
Take home message(s)	<p>Reconfiguration of cytology services can be successfully implemented providing there is a willingness of stakeholders to support it. Do not underestimate the amount of work involved in just applying for the tender and expect the unexpected. It is essential to ensure that the infrastructure is in place with full IT support and recognised communication pathways. There will be initial problems but there is 'light at the end of the tunnel'!</p>
References	<p>1 http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/dh_081006</p> <p>2 http://collections.europarchive.org/tna/20081105144224/http://www.thecarterreview.com</p>

Declaration of interest

None