1. Policy Summary

1.1 Treatment of prominent ears with pinnaplasty is considered a low priority treatment and will only be funded by the CCG if the criteria below have been met. Treatment will NOT be funded for cosmetic reasons.

2. Eligibility Criteria

2.1 Patients can be referred to secondary care if they meet ALL of the following criteria:

   a) Over the age of 11 but under the age of 19.

   b) The patient (not the parents alone) desires surgical correction. Referrals should not be made for children who appear indifferent or opposed to the idea of surgery. Parents requesting surgery for their child in order to prevent psychological distress should be advised that referral should wait until their child specifically requests treatment.

   c) In the professional opinion of the GP the prominence is of a severity that it presents as disfigurement.

   d) There is supporting documented evidence from a health professional and the child’s school that the health and wellbeing of the child is being adversely affected despite all reasonable steps being taken to address the issue (for example, low attendance rate at school and/or poor educational performance).

   e) It is the opinion of the child’s health professional that the adverse impact on the child’s health and wellbeing is likely to be remedied through correction of the deformity.

OR

f) Correction of ear prominence is required to better support a hearing aid.

2.2 Secondary care clinicians should only offer the procedure if patients meet the above criteria.

2.3 The policy was developed in 2015 in line with the commissioning statement published by the Royal College of Surgeons in 2012.

3. References