

Governing Body
18 June 2014
Agenda Item: 5
Chief Clinical Officer and Chief Operating Officer assurance and key issues briefing
Sponsor: Dr Alistair Blair

Members of the Governing Body are asked to:

- 1. Note the content of the report.**

Health and Well-being Board

At its June meeting, the Health and Well Being Board received the five-year health and care plan and approved its submission to NHS England. The Board also considered its own development, in a two hour workshop, concluding that it had made a good start in 2013/14 and committing to driving forward on strategy and quality assurance as well as having a particular focus on social inclusion.

Stakeholder survey of NHS Northumberland Clinical Commissioning Group performance

In April and May, stakeholders from partner agencies, elected members and our member practices were invited to complete a survey reflecting on the work of NHS Northumberland Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) in its first year of operation. Overall the feedback was good with some particularly positive comments being made about our engagement, commitment to service development and ability to deliver what we said we would. The survey did also raise some issues about the extent to which member practices feel engaged with the commissioning agenda and whilst our performance is stronger overall than other CCGs in the north east, we are working really hard to improve engagement across the board.

Co-commissioning of primary care

We have been invited, by NHS England to express an interest in co-commissioning primary care, in partnership with NHS England. We have asked our members for their views, through the locality meetings and have been given the mandate to express an interest on commissioning directed enhanced services. These are services that are over and above the core GP contract and that we believe would make the biggest immediate difference to delivering primary care in Northumberland. We will be working with practices and the 'federations' of practices, to make sure we can get the best patient outcomes possible from those services.

NHS England's assurance of the CCG

We met with NHS England colleagues in May to conclude the annual assurance cycle. NHS England confirmed that they are assured that our commissioning plan and progress made in 2013/14 are good – giving us a 'green' rating against six nationally set criteria.



Financial position

We achieved financial balance for 2013/14 – a great achievement for all member practices, the CCG team and partners agencies.

The financial position for 2014/15 has however, been adversely affected by national changes outside the CCGs control. This includes NHS England requiring £1.6m from Northumberland CCGs budget to be put into a new risk share arrangement for continuing health care (CHC) restitution nationally, a change in the national interpretation of the rules for achieving the quality premium which removed a further £1.2m income from the CCG, on top of the existing £1.2m risk share arrangement that supports NHS England's specialised services funding gap.

We are currently considering whether our financial position is so adversely affected by those changes that we will no longer be able to achieve financial balance for 2014/15. This is really disappointing because the CCG has made such big strides in 2013/14 to overcome the difficult financial legacy it inherited only to have that progress undermined by external factors.

