

Northumberland Primary Care Co-Commissioning Committee

16 December 2015

Agenda Item: 5.1

Harbottle surgery update

Sponsor: Christine Keen

Members of the Northumberland Primary Care Commissioning Committee are asked to:

- 1. Agree that all appropriate actions have been taken to date**
- 2. Agree the forward communications plan**

Background

Dr Miah was a sole proprietor of Harbottle Surgery with a PMS agreement providing essential, additional and enhanced services to a registered list of 834 patients (or 1186.77 weighted patients as at 01 July 2015) from Harbottle Surgery, Harbottle, Northumberland. As previously reported to the Northumberland Primary Care Co-Commissioning Committee Dr Miah was having difficulty in providing access to services to patients, unfortunately these issues were not resolved and this resulted in the closure of the practice with effect from 28 August 2015.

Progress

NHS England reported the following three phase plan to deal with the Harbottle situation to the Primary Care Co-Commissioning Committee in October 2015:

- **Immediately necessary measures to secure continuity of care and adequate access for patients previously registered at Dr Miah's practice.** As discussed at the last Primary Care Co-commissioning Committee, NHS England has ensured that there is no detriment to patient access to services and treatment to the patients in Harbottle and the surrounding areas. Following a dispersal of the patient list a number of patients were identified as particularly vulnerable and these patients were allocated to other providers of primary medical services for the purposes of ensuring continuity of care. It was also identified that a number of patients resided in an area which was not covered by any other practice boundary, NHS England put in place an agreement with Rothbury practice to register these patients and further agreements with other local practices are also in the process of being agreed. Therefore, clear arrangements for primary medical care are now in place for all patients.
- **Interim arrangements to secure the continued provision of primary medical services to Harbottle and surrounding areas while prospective long-term models of care are identified.** Rothbury Practice are currently providing 4 sessions per week (2 GP, 2 Nurse-Led) at Harbottle. Services are being provided on a Tuesday and Thursday morning. Outstanding action in relation to interim

measures is the dispensary/pharmaceutical services to patients. The current position is:-

- A review of existing pharmacy services in the area has been completed to ensure patients in Harbottle have access to the medicines they need.
 - Most patients have registered with other surgeries and in some cases those surgeries will be dispensing practices and can provide medicines.
 - A letter is to be sent to all affected patients, giving them full details of pharmacy provision, particularly giving details of local pharmacies and their contact details should patients wish to enquire about services such as home deliveries.
 - A local medicines collection service is currently being worked through and is expected to be in place over the coming weeks.
 - The branch surgery service currently runs in Harbottle and NHS England are currently in negotiations regarding the possibility of patients having access to pharmacy dispensing services at the village hall site. Any developments in this respect would be communicated to patients as soon as possible. The GP on duty at the Harbottle branch has a supply of acute medicines to meet the emergency needs of patients
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- **A long-term model of care.** NHS England, along with the Northumberland Clinical Commissioning Group, will now be considering the future solution for primary care services in the Harbottle area. A full service review is currently in development. NHS England has commissioned the North East Commissioning Support Services (NECs) to undertake an engagement exercise with patients.