

Northumberland Primary Care Co-Commissioning Committee

16 December 2015

Agenda Item: 5.2

Rothbury practice relocation

Sponsor: Julie Ross

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

- 1. Consider the engagement programme planned for the Rothbury practice relocation.**
- 2. Set a principle of 'financial neutrality' of a like for like practice move, in terms of the revenue expenses arising from a relocation in respect of rent and rates reimbursement paid to the practice.**

Background

Facilities within the 200 year old listed building are unsuitable for the extending patient list, with lack of reserved car parking and limited access to ground floor clinical services. The patient population of Rothbury practice has also expanded significantly over the last few months as a result of the Harbottle practice closure, placing even further pressures on the facility. For some time, the practice has been negotiating a move to the Rothbury Community Hospital site.

Discussion

The practice has identified appropriate co location within Rothbury community hospital which is a purpose built (2008) modern environment, providing the opportunity for further expansion should the practice require. All clinical services would be based on the ground floor providing good physical accessibility to patients. Additionally, the GPs from Rothbury would be co-located with other services further improving integration with both primary and secondary care. The work to create a primary and acute care system in Northumberland, through the Vanguard programme, would advocate the co-location of primary and secondary care services in Rothbury.

Rothbury practice has provided individual households with letters outlining the proposal and inviting patients to two drop in sessions to share thoughts. The two drop in sessions will take place on Friday 11 December and Thursday 14 January. This will provide opportunity for patients to comment on the proposals.

The CCG may wish to consider that any support for the relocation of the practice to the community hospital is on the proviso that it is cost-neutral to NHS England and subsequently to the CCG. The practice should be informed that support for the relocation is subject to them not expecting to receive any additional rent or rates reimbursement above that which is already reimbursed to the practice for its current space.

Recommendation

The Committee is asked to consider the engagement planned with the population served by Rothbury practice and to receive further reports based on that engagement.

The committee is also asked to set a principle, to be applied to all relocations in future that like for like practice moves should not incur additional costs to the commissioner, through the rent and rates reimbursement calculations.

Appendix 1 Practice letter to households of 1 December 2015.