

Northumberland Primary Care Commissioning Committee

20 April 2016

Agenda Item: 5.3

Operational Update

Sponsor: Julie Ross

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

- 1. Consider the operational update and propose further necessary actions.**

Purpose

This report provides an operational overview of current primary care issues and current progress, in particular the issues that are currently being considered by the Care and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the associated Medical Applications Working Party, which has been stood up to consider emerging primary care issues between OSCs.

Operational Update

Felton

The practice is operating from premises owned by the former partner and there is currently some uncertainty about how long this arrangement can continue. An initial exploratory meeting took place in March between the practice owner, NHS England, the CCG and the LMC to establish the issues involved and start discussions on a potential way ahead. Local MP interest has already been shown. NHS England is currently investigating the legal and estate positions and a further meeting will be convened in May to discuss the initial findings.

Harbottle

The initial engagement period for ex-Harbottle medical practice patients has completed and the results are currently in the final stages of a full analysis. The initial response rate was low and the period was extended and wider participation encouraged. 117 responses were finally received. As part of the initial engagement period NHS England and the CCG also met with the practice managers of Rothbury, Scots Gap and Bellingham to discuss how the transitional arrangements for ex-Harbottle patients had progressed. It was noted that there had been an initial period of frustration and some confusion, the practices had worked hard to mitigate this and feedback showed that patients were generally very content with the services they were now receiving. The practice managers noted that this may be a reason for the low number responding to the survey.

Initial headline results of the initial engagement have been presented to the Health and Wellbeing Board and future service delivery options will now be considered by NHS England, the CCG and all partners to agree a sustainable solution, which



balances the needs of local patients and providers.

Otterburn

A recent CQC inspection of Harbottle outlined issues at Otterburn Memorial Hall concerning lone working and the availability of emergency equipment. Given the nature of the concerns the practice took the decision to suspend operations until further advice could be obtained from CQC. Interim arrangements are in place until May 2016. Appointments will be available at the main Bellingham practice on Tuesday mornings, with a view to increasing access specifically for this patient cohort on Friday mornings to coincide with public transport timetables.

Well Close

Plans are currently being developed to re-design and build Berwick Infirmary Community Hospital. Well Close has identified an opportunity to integrate the largest GP practice in the Berwick area within the building to allow for improved collaboration and multi-disciplined team working.

Blyth Practice Merger

Waterloo and Station Medical practices are proposing to merge from April 2017. The practices have already discussed the proposed merger in outline with NHS England and have made an informal, and independent approach to OSC. A proposed merger engagement plan has also been submitted to NHS England. While the merger proposal does not currently discuss the physical relocation of current services, it highlights the benefits that could be realised by a reconfiguration of the delivery site, including enhanced services, reduced duplication and resource economies of scale. The CCG will be working with both practices as the proposal matures.