

Northumberland Primary Care
Commissioning Committee
23 September 2016
Agenda Item: 5.1
Operational Update
Sponsor: Chief Operating Officer

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 progress in these areas. It concentrates on issues that are not covered elsewhere in the agenda, of which some are currently being considered by the Care and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC) and the associated Medical Applications Working Party (MAWP).

Operational Update

Vanguard

In July 2016 Northumberland practices were given five potential organisational forms, developed by Capsticks following discussion with primary care providers, for their representation in a potential Accountable Care Organisation (ACO). In addition, the LMC provided additional capacity to primary care providers and a workshop in September considered the relative merits of the ACO and the role of primary care within it. The Primary Care Leadership Group will also facilitate countywide event in October to further consider the issue. The outcomes of the workshop will be presented to the programme board in October.

Estates and Technology Transformation Fund (ETTF)

The bid process for the ETTF closed on 30 June 2016. The CCG submitted 12 bids (from 14 applications) with a total bid value of £12,491,488. While the un-submitted bids were supported by the CCG, they did not meet the ETTF criteria and were consequently forwarded to NHS England in an attempt to identify alternative funding sources. NHS England is currently conducting Stage 2 of the bid process which is now expected to complete by 30 September 2016. Timings for the final two stages (due diligence and final decisions) have yet to be confirmed.

Support for Vulnerable Practices: Pilot Programme

In June 2015, the Secretary of State for Health announced NHS England would work to develop a £10m programme of support for practices identified in difficulty. The additional funding is designed to secure improvements in vulnerable GP practices to help build resilience in primary care and support delivery of new models of care whilst ensuring equity of access to services.



Practices were selected using a risk matrix included in the guidance as well as soft intelligence and discussions were also held with CCGs and LMCs. 51 practices were initially identified nationally (3 in Northumberland).

Practices were asked to confirm their agreement to match fund and provide a short descriptions of their proposed bid. Funding of £463,718 was set aside for Cumbria and the North East, with £155,016 for year 1 and £375,984 for year 2. Year 1 funding has been allocated to the CCG and the associated payments were made to practices in July 2016. Proposal development will be monitored by NHS England and details shared with the CCG on a regular basis as part of the operational group meetings.

Riversdale Service Transfer

Riversdale Surgery have applied to NHS England for the closure of medical services at the Riversdale premises and relocate services to the refurbished premises in the Oaklands Medical Centre in Prudhoe. The current premises are no longer fit for purpose and are unlikely to continue to meet accessibility, fire and CQC regulations. Initial scoping meetings have taken place with NHS England, NHS Property Services Ltd, the local County Councillor and the CCG. A follow up meeting will take place 23 September 2016 to discuss options.

Seaton Park Medical Group (SPMG)

Following PCCC approval, SPMG wrote to affected patients on 3 May 2016 to inform them that their Newbiggin branch will reduce opening hours to mornings only. NHS England approval was given for this provision to be introduced for 12 weeks from 6 June 2016. The practice has subsequently recruited 4 GPs (due to start between October and December 2016). They have also secured 3 clinical pharmacist staff. It is anticipated however that a period of time will need to be given to allow the new staff to fully embed in the practice and it is understood that SPMG intend to submit a request to extend current provision until early 2017.

Scots Gap Medical Group

Scots Gap Medical Group was rated third out of nearly 8,000 surgeries in England in the National GP Patients Survey. The results showed that 100% of patients had confidence and trust in their GP, while 98.4% said their doctor listened to them and 100% said the GP gave them enough time. Furthermore, 99.2% had a good experience making an appointment and 98.0% were satisfied with waiting times at the surgery. Some 98.6% said they would recommend the surgery to a newcomer to the area and 99.2% said their overall experience was good. This is an outstanding achievement that has been formally recognised by the CCG's Chair.

Felton Surgery

The practice has been in discussion with the landlord who has confirmed that there are no current plans to sell the property. The landlord is sympathetic to the practice position and is supportive of the practice's requirements to fulfil the current terms of

their contract. Further discussion has taken place the NHS England and Assura, a development company who specialise in the development of primary care estate, who may manage a project relating to a proposed new building that allows the retention of dispensary provision.

Primary Medical Care Assurance Framework (PCAF)

The June 2016 meeting received a report outlining how NHS England and the CCG intend to monitor the quality of primary care in Northumberland using the PCAF. In the intervening period have issued an updated version of the PCAF (Appendix 1 refers). The update version now reflects the differences between Level 1, 2 and 3 CCGs. The basic process is unchanged but Level 3 CCG's are afforded greater autonomy and responsibility concerning intervention decisions (page 8 refers).