

**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 application process for GP Forward View Resilience Funding.**
- 2. Consider and approve potential unified bid for county-wide funding.**
- 3. Agree to consider individual practice bids when released by NHS England.**

Purpose

This paper outlines NHS England's commitment to deliver resilience support to Northumberland general practices.

Background

The General Practice Forward View sets out a commitment to deliver a General Practice Resilience programme from 2016-2020. Recognising the current challenges faced by general practice, the programme aims to deliver a menu of support to enable practices to become more resilient and better placed for the future. It is important to note that this work is not related to the performance management of contracts. NHS England Cumbria and North East, working in partnership with the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), are responsible for ensuring the programme's implementation at a local level.

Practices or groups of practices are being offered the opportunity to self-refer if they are experiencing difficulties and feel that they would benefit from a support packages in the following areas (Appendix 1 refers):

- Safety
- Workforce
- Organisational Issues
- Efficiency
- Patient Experience/Access
- Other External Factors

Practices are not required to match any resilience fund allocation but it is expected that they will be fully committed to the process and work with external support to achieve the desired outcomes.

Practice guidance (Appendix 2) sets out how the GP Resilience Programme will be delivered and confirms:

- Operational and funding arrangements at NHS England local team level
- Practices (individual or groups) will be identified for support using existing national criteria



- A menu of support will be offered by local teams, ranging from support to stabilise practice operations where there is a risk of closure, through to more transformational support that will secure resilience in to the future.
- Local teams will tailor this support and decide how to deliver this in view of local practice needs working in conjunction with CCGs, provider GPs, LMCs representatives and RCGP Faculties and Regional Ambassadors (referred hereafter as 'key partners').
- NHS England will work nationally to quality assure support by enabling learning and sharing of best practice, working with RCGP to maximise learning from local peer support and through the roll out of regional events.

Application Process

Applications are to be submitted to NHS England by no later than 26 September 2016. The CCG will then be asked to support the individual applications or otherwise and final packages of support will be agreed by 31 December 2016.

Proposal

It is anticipated that approximately £900K will be made available from the fund for practices across northern England. While practices can submit applications on an individual basis, the programme encourages larger and more ambitious bids that deliver change on a larger scale (and footprint). As the national clinical workforce crisis presents CCG member practices with significant challenges the CCG proposes, with the agreement of member practices, the submission of a unified funding bid. The bid will outline the potential development of a more cost effective and sustainable workforce, which would ease the workforce planning issues currently experienced and best facilitate delivery of primary care at scale. The detail of the proposal will be presented at committee. It should be noted that this course of action, if approved, will have no impact on bids submitted by individual or groups of practices.

Recommendation

The Northumberland Primary Care Commissioning Committee are asked to approve the unified proposal as presented (noting that submission will have no direct impact in the progression of individual bids) and agree to consider the individual practice bids when they are released to the CCG by NHS England for consideration.

Appendix 1 – NHS England offer letter to Northumberland practices.
Appendix 2 – Operational Guidance to practices.