
Health Scrutiny Committee – 16th February, 2015

Report of the Head of Membership Development

NHS England Co-Commissioning and Primary Care Intentions – Dudley Commissioning Group - Delegated responsibility for the Commissioning of General Medical Services (GP services)

Purpose of Report

1. To update the Committee regarding the CCGs submission to NHS England to take on delegated responsibility for the commissioning of GP services.

Background

2. In June 2014 the CCG expressed an interest to NHS England to take on delegated responsibility for the commissioning of GP services that was endorsed by the Dudley Health and Wellbeing Board
3. In November 2014 NHS England released further guidance “Next steps towards primary care co-commissioning” that set out the process for CCGs to apply to take on this additional responsibility
4. The CCG established a Task and Finish group to put together our submission to NHS England that was made in January 2015.

The submission to NHS England required the CCG to undertake the following

- Review and revise its conflicts of interest management policy in light of forthcoming new statutory guidance;
- Describe the intended benefits of co-commissioning arrangements;
- Detail the finance arrangements of the delegated budget; and
- Complete and sign a declaration.

The submission also required the Area Team of NHS England to confirm that

- The CCG met the required assurance thresholds;
- Confirm that the CCG met the required conflicts of interest management thresholds;
- Confirm that the CCG demonstrates appropriate levels of sound financial control and meets all statutory and business planning requirements; and
- Complete and sign a declaration.

NHS England also required the following in support of the submission

- A copy of the CCG Information Governance tool kit, Terms of Reference for new Primary Care Commissioning Committee, and updated CCG constitution with constitutional amendments submitted.

5. In January 2015 the CCG Board approved
 - The submission to NHS England to take on delegated commissioning of GP services with effect from 1st April 2015
 - The revisions to constitution as agreed by the Task and Finish Group
 - The Terms of Reference for the Primary Care Commissioning Committee as agreed by the Task and Finish Group
 - Devolved responsibility to the Chief Accountable Officer and Chief Finance Officer to negotiate with NHS England on managing the transfer safely
6. The Good Governance Institute (GGI) has reviewed our Constitution changes and Commissioning Committee terms of reference for taking delegated responsibility for GP services. GGI has confirmed that our governance arrangements provide a sound framework for managing the delegated responsibility and potential conflicts of interest effectively.
7. A submission was made to NHS England on the 7th January 2015. We are awaiting a formal response in February 2015. We have been advised by NHS England that approval should now be a formality.
8. The addition of delegated commissioning to the CCGs portfolio will require additional investment in support functions to deliver the services required to support this additional activity. The CCG structure is being reviewed with a view to identifying the additional capacity required.
9. NHS England has established Task and Finish groups for all Birmingham, Solihull and Black Country CCGs to ensure a safe handover and transition of functions to CCGs taking on the responsibility for full delegation.

Finance

10. The CCG will be assuming a budget of £37.5M as set out in the submission made to NHS England.

The financial information has been provided by NHS England and is being reviewed to ensure that there are no cost pressures being passed to the CCG once we assume delegated responsibility for the from 1st April 2015.

Recommendation

11. It is recommended that that the Committee:-
 - Note the content of this report for the CCG to assume delegated responsibility for the commissioning of GP services
 - Note that the submission to NHS England provides full assurance that the CCG has taken action to ensure that any potential conflicts of interest have been addressed
 - Note that a process is now in place to ensure a managed transition of functions from NHS England into the CCG



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List of Background Papers

Submission to NHS England as approved by the CCG Board