

Briefing to Kent County Council HOSC Friday 6th March 2015

Subject: Update on actions taken by NHS Dartford, Gravesham and Swanley (DGS) Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and NHS Swale CCG regarding adult community services

Date: 24th February 2015

Introduction

During 2013/14, NHS DGS CCG and NHS Swale CCG undertook a benchmarking and engagement exercise, to better understand key stakeholder (including GP) and wider public and patient experience of community services. This process was conducted to help inform the CCGs 2 and 5 year planning process.

An outline business case was produced as one of the outputs of this engagement work, seeking CCG Governing Body approval to undertake a review of the current adult community services with a view of taking these services out to tender. As part of this review process, both CCGs have been working with the current providers of adult community services, Kent Community Health Trust (KCHT) and Medway Community Health (MCH) to more appropriately align these services around clinically meaningful groups (or clusters) of general practices to form what we call Integrated Primary Care Teams (IPCT). This commenced in November 2014 and will be fully implemented by April 2015. As part of the Pioneer work with Kent County Council, we are also aligning social care staff, mental health services and voluntary sector services into these Integrated Primary Care Team structures to improve the coordination of care for patients particularly those with long term conditions. There is a great deal of emerging clinical evidence demonstrating the benefits of such professionals working together in this way.

The Governing Bodies have approved the outline business case and a project has been initiated to oversee the process.

Current Position

Key individuals have been appointed to carry out the review project and governance processes have been established. The project steering group has, as an integral part of its membership, lay representatives drawn from the CCGs Patient Participation forums, who are actively engaging with their respective communities to impart messages from the project and to bring comments and views back for inclusion and consideration. An NHS procurement agency (NHS Commercial Solutions) has been appointed to provide relevant legal, process and governance expertise.

The Project Steering Group was formed in November 2014 with the aim of overseeing the implementation and learning from the IPCT work, providing advice on future contracting models and the process for contracting going forward based in the future.

For contracting and commissioning purposes, the Project Group defined the following services to be included within the umbrella of "Adult Community Services":

- Community Hospitals
- Community Liaison
- Community Nursing (including matrons)
- Community continence service
- Intermediate Care service
- Community physiotherapy service
- Community podiatry
- Speech and language therapy
- Community specialist nursing including but not exclusively; neuro rehab, cardiac, pain therapy, respiratory, diabetic, epilepsy

The procurement is underway and it is the current expectation that the contract will be let in autumn 2015 with an expected contract commencement in April 2016. The current value of services within the tender is in the order of £26m per annum (combined for NHS DGS CCG and Swale CCG).

The intention is to let the contract on the same service specification as exists currently. The CCGs do not intend, at this point, to design a new model of community care or re-configure services. The CCGs are engaging in a competitive dialogue process, working with potential providers to understand their proposals and solutions to the local health issues; and to establish the credentials of the prospective providers to deliver high quality, financially sustainable services. By openly engaging with the market and local communities we hope to engender more innovative approaches to deliver care in a joined up way that is consistent with meeting the long term health needs of both communities.

Attached is a timetable of the procurement process. As a first step in that process a 'market engagement' event was held on 11th February to engage potential providers in discussion about ways to deliver the services in the future. We were keen to understand their concerns, issues with the approach and general interest in working with us to deliver the improvements. It also provided an opportunity for them to make connections with each other and to possibly form alliances or consortia to put forward joint bids which may strengthen their offering. The event was well attended with 38 different organisations and 80 individuals present. Initial feedback has been positive with a number of comments and suggestions made on the day. Follow up feedback forms have been circulated to all attendees with a view to securing further comments and suggestions. These will be collated and will be used to inform how the CCG's proceed. A further event is being scheduled later in the Spring to further discuss our approach based on the feedback and further thinking within the CCG.

The CCG would welcome the opportunity to return to the HOSC at its June meeting to provide further updates on progress and following further engagement with potential providers.