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GP Commissioning Consortia

Further information is now beginning to emerge from the Department of Health in both the DH Operating Framework for 2011/12 and the response to the consultation document. There will be £2.00 per patient for next year for GPCC development and PCTs are expected to provide GPCC with additional support in terms of governance, finance and commissioning expertise.

Pathfinder Status

The submission by primary care to be a GP Commissioning Consortia (GPCC) pathfinder was approved by the Secretary of State for Health in December. This provides an excellent opportunity for Somerset to be amongst the leaders in developing this NHS reform programme. The focus of this work will be on the arrangements of how a large consortium can effectively engage and work with localities/federations.

As part of this work, David Brown has been appointed as the Programme Director for the Transition Group. David joins NHS Somerset on Tuesday 18 January 2011 and will be based at NHS Somerset’s Head Quarters in Wynford House, Yeovil. He will report directly to Dr David Rooke who is chairing the transition group. The Programme Director will support the transition group for the next four to six months to establish a shadow GP Commissioning Consortia Board.

QIPP

Two key attachments this month are a newsletter from the Federation of Bridgwater Practices which outlines the work that has been taking place on long-term conditions as part of the Quality, Innovation, Productivity and Prevention programme. Also, with NHS Somerset, we have launched a newsletter focusing on elective care.

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Shepton Mallet NHS Treatment Centre – The New Contract

As you will be aware, after a detailed procurement process involving WyvernHealth.Com and NHS Somerset, UK-SH (the current provider of services) has retained the contract to operate Shepton Mallet NHS Treatment Centre (SMTC).

WyvernHealth.Com has been involved at every stage in the procurement. The new services have been worked up following suggestions from GPs following a consultation process. Following this the clinical team have created a service specification for the contract, evaluated the bids from potential providers, and are now working on finalising care pathways with the provider. WH.C and NHS Somerset will continue to be involved after the contract start in service quality monitoring and a new medical advice group that is going to be set up. We are very grateful to Rosie Benneyworth and Mike Gorman for their hard work and diligence on your behalf.

A further update will be provided in the February Newsletter. If in the meantime you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact us:

Rosie.Benneyworth@wyvernhealth.nhs.uk or Mike.Gorman@wyvernhealth.nhs.uk

The new three year SMTC contract starts on 15 March 2011 and will bring significant benefits for patients. These include:

Expanded surgical and diagnostic procedures:

In addition to existing specialities, like orthopaedics, ophthalmology, general surgery, diagnostic endoscopies, and diagnostic imaging, there will be new specialities, like ENT, gynaecology, urology, oral surgery.

There will be a range of new services, some of which are to be piloted before rolling out to other sites including colonic polyp surveillance service, integrated specialist injection services, integrated fracture management services, integrated surgical dermatology services and Pregnancy Advisory Services (in conjunction with Marie Stopes).

Shorter waiting times:

Patients will have shorter waiting times with most procedures being done within 8-10 weeks of referral.

Satellite clinics:

These are to be established at a range of community hospital sites across the county and in time improved transport arrangements will be introduced, including the provision of a new free bus service for patients. There will also be extended opening hours for patients, with clinics running in the evenings, and at the weekends.

Referring patients?

The new services are likely to be available on 'Choose and Book' at the beginning of February 2011. However, the SMTC is ready to see patients in the new services immediately. We will send an update when we know that services can start to be booked.

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St Margaret's Hospice Single Point of Access for Services

St Margaret's Hospice would like to thank you for your support and co-operation since they opened their new referral contact centre.

This new centralised approach has been designed to help you meet the needs of your patients as quickly as possible.

By ringing one clinically-led number 0845 070 8910 you can tap into whichever service you require including:

- Physiotherapy and Rehabilitation
- Lymphoedema
- A range of support for families and carers
- A visit from a Specialist Nurse
- A Day Hospice visit
- Hospice care at home
- Complementary Therapy
- 24 hour Advice Line for patients and carers

Deadlines

Outstanding - Practices that have yet to submit their **PBC Plans for 2010/11** are asked to send them to sue.vowles@wyvernhealth.nhs.uk (office address shown below). As you know, these plans identify the areas on which practices will be focussing and form part of the PBC LES.

Outstanding - Practices that have yet to submit their **PBC Progress Report (Appendix 2 of the PBC LES)** are asked to send them to sue.vowles@wyvernhealth.nhs.uk at their earliest opportunity please.

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Employment Opportunities

Opportunity for a Project Manager to Develop Patient and Public Engagement (PPE) in the new GP Commissioning Consortia

Under a PPE pilot scheme the Department of Health has provided Somerset with specific funds to ensure effective and appropriate means of engaging patients and public in the everyday working and key commissioning decisions of the new consortia.

We are looking to appoint (or second from a member practice) a Project Manager for 12 months for two days a week, to include administration support. The person should have management experience and, ideally, experience of engaging with patients or the public. If you would like to express an interest in this position please EMail Jayne.nicholas@wyvernhealth.nhs.uk

Opportunity for a Communications Lead

WH.C is looking to appoint (or second from a member practice) a Communications Lead for 12 months for two days a week. The person should have management experience and, ideally, experience of in this area. If you would like to express an interest in this position please EMail sue.vowles@wyvernhealth.nhs.uk

We are also interested in hearing from any managerial or clinical staff that have a specific interest or skill which may be useful to support our work in 2011 – some areas we are looking at are: marketing, education, clinical areas, etc.

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