

January 2008

Volume 2, Issue 1



PBC Proposals for 2008/09

We were very pleased to receive approximately 50 commissioning proposals from over 25 practices prior to Christmas. These were all considered and evaluated at the December Board meeting using a methodology developed by the NHS Institute for Innovation and Improvement.

The Proposals generally fell into six categories:

- Public Health
- Diabetes
- Interface Services
- Emergency Admissions
- Primary Care Mental Health and
- Diagnostics

The proposals ranged in scope from being aimed at single practice populations (Tier 1) to pan-county schemes (Tier 4).

We are now in the process of providing feedback to practices and starting to support practices develop the commissioning proposals further with additional assistance from the PCT prior to submitting the proposals to the PCT Approvals Committee.

As part of this process we will be asking practices to complete a questionnaire on diagnostics since many proposals related to improving these services and we noted some disparity between services across Somerset.

We are also preparing a response to the PCT on the Primary Care Mental Health Service Consultation which we will share with practices. We would also encourage practices to attend one of the public meetings.

LES 2007/08

The finalised criteria for the LESII 2007/08 component were issued by the PCT just before Christmas; this included a requirement for practices to produce written management plans for patients at risk of an emergency admission. We plan to issue a template and guidance for practices in the near future. This will also include some guidance on identifying 'at risk' patients using Ardentia.

News from the Office

We now have a permanent full time secretary in the office at Priory House, Wells. Lisa Hulford joined us from 3 January having previously been PA to Robin Smith, formerly Chief Executive of Mendip PCT.

With this additional support communication between the consortium and practices should improve. We intend to issue more regular newsletters and to improve on the content of the current newsletter.

Lisa can be contacted on 01749 836709 or lisa.hulford@wyvernhealth.nhs.uk

COPD Reminder

Please would practices, if they haven't already done so, provide Jon Hincks with the contract details of a respiratory lead clinician. Jonathan.hincks@chedmed.nhs.uk

www.wyvernhealth.com

Please remember to check the website. Your feedback will be appreciated.

The Acute Care GP Service (ACGP) in Yeovil DGH – is up and running!

What's it all about?

This new service started on 7 January in Yeovil DGH and offers an alternative to hospital admission for those patients you feel unsure about managing in the community without additional support, advice or access to diagnostic investigations. It's a six month pilot with a Somerset GP based in the Accident and Emergency department between 10am and 7pm, seven days a week. The aim is to reduce unnecessary admissions, provide patients with a quick and convenient service and contribute to both local and national performance standards.

All Somerset GPs were emailed a Question and Answer brief on the new service in the week beginning 31 January 2007. Access to the service is through Somerset Primary Link (SPL) who put you in touch with the duty GP in the service and/or discuss other treatment options for your patient. The experienced GP on duty will have access to blood tests and simple X-rays. There is potential for the service to expand if it is successful although this will clearly require discussions with both YDH and the PCT.

The service has been commissioned by Somerset PCT and being implemented and managed by 'Devon Health', a subsidiary arm of 'Devon Doctors', the out of hours GP service provider for Devon.

Who are Devon Doctors?

Devon Doctors provides the GP out of hours service for the people of Devon and Halton in Cheshire. Patients contact the service through their practice or direct and, depending on the medical problem, telephone advice, a treatment centre consultation or a home visit is provided.

Devon Doctors was formed in 1996 when eight small GP co-operatives, providing out of hours cover for local practices, joined together across Devon. In 2004 they were commissioned by the local PCTs to provide a service to the county's 1.1 million population and this was extended to cover the Halton area in 2006. The organisation is owned by every GP practice in Devon, maintaining links between in and out of hours care. 95% of all shifts are filled by GPs who work in local Devon GP practices (80% by local GP principles).

Devon Doctors achieve all Department of Health standards and aim to go over and above these quality requirements. Over 300,000 patient calls were received in 2006 and just 92 complaints. The National Audit Office has highlighted them as an example of good practice, placing Devon Doctors with the top 10% of services nationally, but for a price which is in line with the national average. Surveys reveal a consistently high satisfaction rate among both patients and the Devon GP practices.

In September 2007, Devon Doctors created 'Devon Health', a new and innovative arm of its host organisation and set up to run services for and with GPs, PCTs and acute trusts. It provides mostly non-urgent care and seeks to preserve the core values of traditional general practice whilst offering another option to health and social care for their commissioning choices.

For more information on Devon Doctors, check out; www.devondoctors.co.uk

What are the next steps for the ACGP service?

The intention is to then roll out the ACGP model in Musgrove Hospital in Taunton with a provisional start date of early to mid March 2008. This will enable the early findings and conclusions from Yeovil to be assessed and then fed into the Taunton pilot.

Want to find out more about the Yeovil or Taunton ACGP pilots?

The GP lead for the Yeovil pilot and for clinical issues is Kate Staveley at:

kate.staveley@tawstockmedicalcentre.nhs.uk

Implementation and operational issues at Devon Doctors are being dealt with by:

lee.grant@devondoctors.nhs.uk or rachael.willett@devondoctors.nhs.uk

The Commissioners role has been led by Susan Davies, Deputy Director of Primary Care Development at:

susanj.davies@somersetpct.nhs.uk

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

WyvernHealth.Com Locality Meetings

Somerset Coast	5 February 2008 at Taunton Road Medical Centre at 7pm
South Somerset	7 February 2008 at Ryall's Park Surgery at 7pm
Taunton	12 February 2008 at MPH Post Graduate Centre at 7pm
County-wide	5 March 2008 (pm only), venue to be confirmed.

PCT Locality Meetings

7pm on 9 January at Wynford House, Yeovil (Chard, Ilminster & Yeovil Surgeries)
2pm on 23 January at Battleborough Grange Hotel, Brent Knoll (North Sedgemoor Surgeries)
7pm on 23 January at Battleborough Grange Hotel, Brent Knoll (South Sedgemoor Surgeries)
2pm on 29 January at Northfield Hotel, Minehead (West Somerset Surgeries)
2pm on 30 January at Somerset PCT Wells Office, Priory House (West Mendip Surgeries)
7pm on 30 January at Somerset PCT Wells Office, Priory House (East Mendip Surgeries)
2pm on 6 February 2008 at Sedgemoor Room, Lyngford House (Taunton Surgeries)

Primary Care Mental Health Service Public Consultation Meetings

10.30am Friday 11 January at Albermarle Centre, Taunton
2.30pm Thursday 17 January at Bridgwater Town Hall
10.30am Wednesday 23 January at Marwick Centre, Yeovil