

January 2008

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2008 / 09 Commissioning Plan

A draft commissioning plan is being developed incorporating the commissioning proposals from practices which is due to be presented to the PCT at the end of January.

The six themes (Diabetes, Emergency Admissions, Public Health, Interface Services, Primary Care Mental Health Services and Diagnostics) have been discussed with the PCT Professional Executive Committee and further work is ongoing with practices who submitted proposals to develop the commissioning plan to present to the PEC at its next meeting in February.

At the January PEC meeting Ian Tipney, Chief Executive, Somerset PCT used the opportunity to comment:

“The Practice Based Commissioning arrangements in Somerset are quite unique and practices should be congratulated on the innovative and joined up working which is taking forward real service improvement for the population of Somerset.

The proposals submitted for 2008/09 obviously have to be assessed against the National Operating Framework requirements for the forthcoming year. However the proposed schemes focus on areas of real local need within Somerset and the Primary Care Trust particularly welcomes the emphasis on further developing services for people with common mental health problems and diabetes whilst continuing to address unscheduled care”.

We would like to see many of the commissioning proposals progressed early in 2008/09 but those relating to Diabetes and Primary Care Mental Health services may take longer to commission as there is a need for the PBC proposals to be linked with wider work currently being undertaken by the PCT.

Additional guidance on PBC was issued in December by the Department of Health which provides further clarity on how PCTs will put in place a framework that will allow PBC consortia more freedom to support local schemes. With the PCT we will be considering how this might be used in 2008/09 and beyond. We are already starting to plan for 2009/10 and at the proposed event on 5 March 2008 we would like to progress this further (details attached).

PBC Information Packs

PBC information packs for the first six months have now been issued to practices. The PCT recognizes there are issues regarding timeliness and the quality of data as well as presentation but intend to improve on these in future. We are working with the PCT to address these problems and any feedback would be appreciated to either Kevin Hudson: Kevin.hudson@somersetpct.nhs.uk or Paul Bearman: paul.bearman@wyvernhealth.nhs.uk

www.wyvernhealth.com

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

Commissioning Plan 2007/08

Somerset Primary Link

We are aware that this service is still not dealing with all emergency GP referrals. The service is fully operational and has the capacity to be involved with all admission requests from GPs.

There is a need to undertake a clinical audit on SPL and we are seeking two GPs who would be interested in supporting the service to undertake this. If you are interested in this please contact Paul Bearman: paul.bearman@wyvernhealth.nhs.uk

Acute Care GP

This is now operational in Yeovil and is planned to be operational in mid-March in Taunton. Devon Health who manages the service is keen to recruit more Somerset GPs to be involved in working in this service. If you are interested please contact Rachel.willett@devondoctors.nhs.uk

COPD

An invitation has been sent out to GPs to attend a county-wide event on 28 February to make patients and healthcare professionals aware of the service. An invitation letter for patients is appended to this newsletter and we would ask that practices distribute this to their COPD patients. Implementation plans are currently being developed by Avanaula.

Primary Care Mental Health Consultation

We have emailed out separately our proposed response to the PCT's consultation on primary care mental health services. Please respond directly to the PCT if you have any specific comments: mentalhealth@somersetpct.nhs.uk by 8 February 2008.

GPs with an Interest in Commissioning

The workload of the Board members is increasing and there is an opportunity for GPs and other members of primary care health teams to be more involved in supporting WH.C and the PCT to progress the PBC agenda. If you are interested in a role in this please contact Paul Bearman: paul.bearman@wyvernhealth.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), see attached flyer and draft agenda

COPD – Forum Day

28 February 2008 at Holiday Inn, Taunton