

PRIMARY CARE COMMISSIONING AND GP ACCESS

Summary

1. The Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC) is to consider an update on changes to commissioning arrangements of General Practice (GP) Services.

2. These changes form part of many taking place across the NHS and are included in the recently published NHS Five Year Forward View, which forms part of the HOSC's on-going work programme.

3. Representatives have been invited from Worcestershire's three clinical commissioning groups (CCGs) and NHS England West Midlands (Worcestershire and Herefordshire Locality). Feedback has also been sought from Healthwatch Worcestershire.

Current arrangements

4. Since 2013 NHS England has had responsibility for commissioning GP services. However in January 2015 NHS England invited CCGs to put forward expressions of interest to take on an increased role in commissioning primary care services. This was with a view to recognising the importance of ensuring GP services are very closely aligned with other community and secondary care health services that are already commissioned by CCGs.

5. CCGs were able to apply for one of three levels of greater involvement in commissioning GP services:

- greater involvement in primary care decision making with NHS England (NHSE)
- joint commissioning arrangements with NHSE
- delegated commissioning arrangements from NHSE.

Arrangements from April 2015

6. As a result, from 1 April 2015, the commissioning arrangements for GP services across Worcestershire have changed. South Worcestershire CCG has been handed full delegated responsibility for commissioning. In North Worcestershire, Redditch and Bromsgrove CCG and Wyre Forest CCG have opted for the joint commissioning model.

7. The new arrangements will require changes in ways of working and governance, in particular relating to the delegated model opted for by South Worcestershire CCG.

Access to GPs

8. The discussion also enables committee members to ask about more general issues affecting GP services. Several committee members have recently raised problems reported by constituents about GP capacity and availability of GP appointments, an issue which has also been reported nationally.

Future agenda

9. Healthwatch Worcestershire has recently completed some work on GP services for deaf people and access by the homeless – both these reports are available [here on their website](#)

10. Co-commissioning of GP services is included in the recently published NHS Five Year Forward View, which sets out a vision and collective view of how the NHS needs to change, what it might look like and how to achieve it.

11. In the near future it is planned to update the HOSC on the New Models of Care Programme, through which individual organisations have been invited to apply to be a 'vanguard' site, giving the opportunity to work with national partners to co-design new models of care.

Purpose of the Meeting

12. The aim of the meeting is to:

- Increase understanding of new GP commissioning arrangements
- Enable discussion of issues raised during the year about access to GP appointments and capacity.

13. During the discussion the HOSC may wish to consider the following:

- How will new arrangements be used to drive improvements in local health care?
- How have the governance arrangements being developed?
- Monitoring arrangements for new commissioning and purchasing powers
- How will the changes improve issues identified by HOSC during earlier discussions around GP services, including access, capacity, and availability of appointments?
- What about patients living in border areas?
- The Government's plans for 7 day GP working
- GP recruitment issues.

14. Following the discussion, HOSC members are asked to consider whether any further information is required and identify any specific elements for potential future scrutiny.

Supporting Papers

Presentation slides will be available at the meeting.

Contact Points

County Council Contact Points

County Council: 01905 763763

Worcestershire Hub: 01905 765765

Email: worcestershirehub@worcestershire.gov.uk

Specific Contact Points for this Report

Emma James / Jo Weston, Overview and Scrutiny Officers,

Commercial and Change Directorate: 01905 766627

Email: scrutiny@worcestershire.gov.uk

Background Papers

In the opinion of the proper officer (in this case the Head of Legal and Democratic Services) the following are the background papers relating to the subject matter of this report:

Primary care Co-commissioning (NHS England)
<http://www.england.nhs.uk/commissioning/pc-co-comms/>

NHS Five Year Forward View
<http://www.england.nhs.uk/ourwork/futurenhs/>

Healthwatch Worcestershire reports on 'Access to GP Services for Deaf People' and 'Homelessness and Access to Health Services in Worcestershire'
<http://www.healthwatchworcestershire.co.uk/work-us>

BBC News article: 'Some patients 'struggling to book with GP', watchdog says' (14 November 2014)
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-30072905>