

Essex Health and Wellbeing Board	HWB/019/14
Date: 20 th May 2014	

Co-Commissioning of Primary Care Services

Report by Dr Gary Sweeney, North East Essex Clinical Commissioning Group

1. Purpose of Report, Decision Areas and Recommendations

1.1 Purpose of Report

The purpose of the report is to bring to the attention of Health and Wellbeing Board Members the invitation from NHS England for CCGs to submit expressions of interest to develop new arrangements for co-commissioning of primary care services with NHS England Area Teams.

1.2 The Chairman has indicated his intention to make a determination under S. 100b 4(b) of the Local Government Act 1972 to the effect that the matter should be considered as a matter of urgency by virtue of special circumstances, these being the need to comply with the timetable set by NHS England.

1.3 Decision Areas and Recommendations

The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to note the attached letter from NHS England to CCG Clinical Leads, NHS Area Directors and CCG Chief Officers, inviting CCGs to submit expressions of interest by 20 June.

The Health and Wellbeing Board are asked to comment on this invitation in order for their views to be included in any submissions of expression of interest by CCGs.

2 Background and Context

2.1 The Health and Social Care Act 2012 made provisions for a number of changes to the NHS in England, which became operational on 1 April 2013. Whereas the NHS commissioning system was previously made up of primary care trusts and specialised commissioning groups, the reforms saw the creation of Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs), whose function would be to organise the delivery of services to their local population.

- 2.2 The responsibility for the direct commissioning of services outside the remit of clinical commissioning groups was retained by NHS England. These are:
- primary care
 - offender health
 - military and veteran health
 - specialised services.
- 2.3 An announcement by NHS England Chief Executive Simon Stevens on 1st May 2014 outlined the proposal to invite those CCGs who are interested to submit expressions of interest in taking on enhanced powers and responsibilities to co-commission primary care.

3 Options and Proposals

- 3.1 Following receipt of the letter attached in Appendix 1, CCGs now have the option to submit an expression of interest by 20th June 2014.

Expressions of interest should include:

- The CCGs involved (as a group of CCGs have the option to submit a combined expression of interest)
 - Intended benefits and benefits realisation
 - Scope
 - Nature of Co-commissioning
 - Timescales
 - Governance
 - Engaging Member practices and local stakeholders
 - Monitoring and evaluation
- 3.2 With reference to the requirement to engage local stakeholders in discussions about co-commissioning proposals, the expressions of interest should include any initial views expressed by the Health and Wellbeing Board.

4 Equality and Diversity

- 4.1 CCGs will take into account the views of local patient groups, providers and stakeholders in writing any expressions of interest, as well as putting together proposals for engaging stakeholders more fully in developing the proposed arrangements more fully.
- 4.2 Submissions should ensure that any proposals have taken equality of health provision and diversity of local populations into account, in line with CCGs current commissioning plans.

5 Background Papers

There are no background papers to this report.

6 Appendix 1

NHS England Co-Commissioning Letter 9th May 2014.