

Agenda Item 8: 21.07.04

Meeting: Primary Care Commissioning Committees in Common

Date of Meeting	13 July 2021
Title of Paper	Heads of Primary Care report
Lead Director	Buckinghamshire – Robert Majilton Oxfordshire – Jo Cogswell Berkshire West - James Kent
Author(s)	Jessica Newman Julie Dandridge Helen Clarke
Paper Type	The report presented is for noting
Action Required	Members of the Committees are asked to note the updates provided by the Heads of Primary Care

Executive Summary

This paper presents the delegated activity undertaken by the three CCGs primary care teams between April 21 and June 21.

It is presented as an integrated report. Of particular note are the changes to the approach to the procurement of clinical waste services and the sign up to the PCN Network DES 21/22.

Members of the Committees are asked to note the updates provided by the Heads of Primary Care.

Heads of Primary care report April – June 21

This report provides an update on the issues arising and the work that has taken place by the Primary Care teams between April 2021 and June 2021. Some work has been undertaken across the ICS whereas other is focused at place. Both types of work are included in this report.

1. Clinical Waste procurement

In May 2021 NHS England asked the ICS to approve a Direct Award Contract for the provision and management of primary care clinical waste services across the three CCGs. The Heads of Primary Care and finance directors/committees considered the request and other options and a paper was presented to the Accountable Officer, recommending approval. Approval for the direct award contracts was granted on 28 May 2021.

In accordance with the premises costs directions (NHS (General Medical Services – premises costs) directions 2013) GP practices are entitled to claim for financial assistance for charges associated with the collection and disposal of clinical waste. For BOB GP practices this entitlement has been met by NHSEI commissioning clinical waste services on behalf of practices rather than reimbursing costs incurred.

As part of delegated commissioning arrangements, whilst the budget for clinical waste services has been delegated to CCGs, the management of the clinical waste contracts, on behalf of CCGs, has remained with NHSEI who also has a responsibility to provide clinical waste services for pharmacy sites.

NHSEI has, on behalf of CCGs, been working to strengthen arrangements with clinical waste suppliers to mitigate future issues in performance and prepare for a re-procurement exercise to appoint new contracts across England. As a result of this work, short and longer term procurement objectives for primary care clinical waste services were proposed which required the CCGs consideration and response. A committee comprising NHSE/I and CCGs was asked to:

- Agree a direct award contract for 21/22 for clinical waste services
- Agree the continuation of management agency services through a direct award contact
- Note development of primary care targeted guidance on clinical waste management
- Note further work planned to redesign and re-procure clinical waste services across England.

CCGs have also been asked to review data on waste producer sites, indicating corrections if required. As BOB CCGs commission the services of a clinical waste management company, Anenta, this action will be undertaken by them.

The main risk identified in issuing the direct award contract was that the provider would request a new contract price. AGEM CSU facilitated the financial agreements centrally on behalf of CCGs. On 25 June NHS England confirmed that the central team had agreed with the providers that all current rates will remain unchanged for the duration of the clinical waste direct award period.

Clinical waste budgets and spend against these are as follows:

CCG	Budget	Spend
Oxon	£290,966	£302,481
Bucks	£152,196	£123,317
Berks W	£102,500	£134,578

Managing Agent Costs (Anenta) are as follows:

ICS / STP / CCG area	Number of General Practices	Core MA services costs @ £87.08 per site (CCG)	Practice audits @ additional £42.85 per site (CCG)
NHS Berkshire West CCG	54	4,702	2,314
NHS Buckinghamshire CCG	65	5,660	2,785
NHS Oxfordshire CCG	77	6,705	3,299

2. Network Contract DES sign up 2021/22

The Network Contract DES [specification](#) for 2021-22 was issued on 31 March 2021, with changes helpfully summarised in a 4 page [cover note](#). These include:

- Entitlement to embedded mental health practitioner funded 50:50 with the local community mental health provider
- Extra roles (including paramedics) within the Additional Roles Reimbursement scheme, along with a 73% increase in funding
- Revised indicators for the Investment & Impact Fund. Indicators for approx. 2/3 of the funding yet to be introduced – expected October 2021.

There were no changes to the service requirements in the Network Contract DES in April 2021 but there is the potential to revise the specification mid-year.

Participation in the Network Contract DES each year from 2021 to 2024 is automatic for previously signed-up practices. There is a one-month window in April (or after a mid-year specification change) when practices may opt out.

2.1 Buckinghamshire

The Network Contract Direct Enhanced Service (DES) was introduced during 2019 and will remain in place until at least 31 March 2024. In Bucks all practices signed up to the Network Contract DES in 2019/20 and 2020/21 forming 12 Primary Care Networks (PCN) achieving 100% coverage for our patient population.

On 14 September 2020 the CCG, as commissioner, was informed by The Swan Practice of their intention to resign from North Bucks PCN with effect from 1 April 2021. In the same letter The Swan Practice requested approval to form a new single practice PCN “The Swan Network” from 1 April 2021. In December 2020 the Primary Care Commissioning Committee approved this request.

The Network Contract DES Guidance for 2021/22 in England stated that from “April 2021 onwards, all Core Network Practices of Previously Approved PCNs will automatically

participate in the 2021/22 and subsequent year's Network Contract DES, and any in-year variations unless a Core Network Practice chooses to opt out of the participation." In Bucks no practice informed the CCG of their intention to opt out of the Network Contract DES and therefore we maintain 100% coverage for our patient population in 2021/22 across 13 PCNs.

PCN	Core Network Practices
The Swan Network	The Swan Practice
North Bucks PCN	3W Health Ashcroft Surgery Waddesdon Surgery Edlesborough Surgery
Westongrove PCN	Westongrove Partnership
Central BMW PCN	Berryfields Medical Centre Meadowcroft Surgery Whitehill Surgery
Central Maple PCN	Mandeville Practice Oakfield Surgery Poplar Grove Practice
Aylesbury Vale South PCN	Cross Keys Surgery Haddenham Medical Centre Unity Health
Chesham & Little Chalfont PCN	Water Meadow Surgery The New Surgery Gladstone Road Surgery Little Chalfont Surgery
Mid-Chiltern PCN	Hughenden Valley Surgery John Hampden Surgery Prospect House Surgery Rectory Meadow Surgery Amersham Health Centre
Cygnets PCN	Desborough Surgery Kingswood Surgery Priory Surgery Tower House Surgery
Dashwood PCN	Stokenchurch Medical Centre Chiltern House Medical Centre Cressex Health Centre Carrington House Surgery Riverside Surgery Wye Valley Surgery
South Bucks PCN	Denham Medical Centre Southmead Surgery Threeways Surgery Iver Medical Centre Burnham Health Centre
The Chalfonts PCN	The Misbourne Practice The Allan Practice The Hall Practice
Arc PCN	Cherrymead Surgery

	Highfield Surgery Marlow Medical Group Millbarn Medical Group The Simpson Centre Bourne End & Wooburn Green Medical Centre
--	--

2.2 Oxfordshire

A summary of the Oxfordshire position is provided below.

64/67 Oxfordshire practices are participating during 2021-22, an increase of one from last year. The additional practice is Cowley Road Medical Practice who will re-join the City East Oxford PCN. No participating Oxfordshire practices chose to opt out option in April 2021. OCCG is issuing a contract variation to each participating practice for adoption - this is an annual requirement.

Three Oxfordshire practices chose not to participate in the Network Contract DES 2021-22. Arrangements are as follows.

Practice	Arrangement to provide PCN services
Alchester Medical Group, Bicester	Bicester Health Centre will continue to provide Network services to the whole Bicester population
Montgomery House Surgery, Bicester	
Sibford Surgery, nr Banbury	North Oxfordshire Rural Alliance (NORA) PCN will offer Network services to the Sibford registered population .

Bicester Health Centre does not meet the national criteria to be accepted as a PCN due to population well below the minimum level of 30,000. OCCG will continue to support Bicester HC to deliver network services to the full Bicester population as if it were a PCN. This includes full access to funding and management support.

2.3 Berkshire West

Changes to Berkshire West PCNs in the Reading and Wokingham areas that were taken to an extraordinary meeting of the BW PCCC in May 2021.

The motivation for the changes was brought about by shifts in relationships between different practices in existing PCNs. Having sought assurance regarding commitment to integrating care and continuing to work closely with neighbouring PCNs, the primary care team recommended that the changes were approved so that all practices would remain signed up to the Network Contract DES. This approach was endorsed by PCCC voting members.

Reading Central PCN and Whitley PCN reconfiguration

Previous configuration (March 2021)

PCN	Practice	Reg popltn*
-----	----------	-------------

Reading Central	Pembroke	Melrose	Chatham St	Reading WiC	Russell St	Abbey	47,070
Whitley	Milman Road	South Reading	London St	Longbarn Lane			42,369

New configuration (from April 2021)

PCN	Practice						Reg popltn*	
Reading Central	Pembroke	Melrose	Chatham Street	Russell Street	Longbarn Lane	London Street	South Reading	56,681
Whitley	Milman Road	Reading WiC	Abbey					32,758

* as at 1st January 2021

Those shaded in blue moved from Whitley to Reading Central.

Those shaded in yellow moved from Reading Central to Whitley.

The changes represented a realignment in practice relationships following the disbanding of the Reading Primary Care Alliance and other practice changes.

Wokingham North split and creation of a new PCN

The CCG was approached by the practices who constitute the membership of Wokingham North PCN in March of this year to advise of problems with the relationship between the practices and proposal to establish a new PCN, Phoenix, with Wokingham North PCN operating with reduced membership alongside it.

Previous configuration

PCN	Practice					Reg popltn*
Wokingham North	Wargrave	Woodley	Parkside	Loddon Vale	Twyford	63,884

New configuration

PCN	Practice			Reg popltn*
Wokingham North	Wargrave	Woodley	Parkside	36,277
Phoenix	Loddon Vale	Twyford		27,607

* as at 1st January 2021

The CCG met with practices in April and discussed the proposal, seeking in particular to be assured that all elements of the Network Contract DES would continue to be delivered and that the two PCNs would continue to work together, and with other system partners, to ensure that patients had equitable access to services. Before agreeing the proposal, PCCC members also noted that the new PCN's list size would fall below the minimum recommended by NHSE (30,000) patients. It was decided

however that the proposed approach offered the best option in terms of continuing practice sign-up and delivery of PCN Network DES services to all patients in the area.

3. Buckinghamshire place update

Buckinghamshire Specific Issues

3.1 STP Wave 2 funding – Programme Business Case (PBC)

At the request of NHSE/I, Buckinghamshire CCG was asked to submit a PBC, to provide an overview of the 3 projects which have approved STP Wave 2 funding from NHSE/I;

- Buckingham – Lace Hill; Outline Business Case to be submitted July 2021
- Chalfont St Peter – Calcot Medical Centre; Business Justification Case submitted to NHSE/I December 2020, decision awaited.
- South West Aylesbury – work has commenced with the 3 PCNs in Aylesbury to scope primary care provision for the town which will form the basis of an Outline Business Case to be submitted by the end of 2021.

The PBC was submitted in June and responses to further questions from NHSE/I will be sent by 9 July. NHSE/I also requested a letter of support from the ICS, given that the projects will run beyond March 2022. The PBC has been approved by the CCG's Primary Care Premises Group and will also be considered at the ICS Estates Meeting on 19 July.

3.2 Award of Special Allocation Service (SAS) APMS contract

Due to the resignation of the provider, Buckinghamshire CCG has awarded a 5 year APMS contract to Medicus Health Partners for the provision of a Special Allocation Service (for patients who have been removed from a primary care provider list due to a breach of the NHS Zero Tolerance code). The APMS contract was awarded after inviting Buckinghamshire practices and local providers to express interest in the service as an Enhanced Service, with no interest being forthcoming.

4. Oxfordshire place update

Special Allocation Scheme

The Special Allocation Scheme (SAS), formerly known as the Violent Patient Scheme (VPS), was introduced as an Enhanced Service in 2004, with the aim of providing a secure environment in which patients who have been violent or aggressive in their GP practice can continue to receive general medical services. From 1 July 2018 responsibility for commissioning the SAS was delegated to OCCG from NHSE.

A procurement exercise was undertaken to find a provider of this service for Oxfordshire following contract termination from the previous provider. Expressions of interest were received from two providers with the contract being awarded to Berinsfield Health Centre commencing 1 April 2021. Training has been provided for the practice to support them to manage this cohort of patients and additional security

measures have been installed within the surgery. There are currently seven patients on the scheme and the first quarterly review meeting is scheduled for July.

Internal Audit

An audit of Delegated Commissioning was carried out by RSM starting in October 2020. The review assessed the CCG's compliance with the NHS England Internal Audit Framework as well as our compliance against the delegated functions.

Minor weaknesses were identified leading to two low priority management actions being agreed:

- OPCCC Terms of Reference to be reviewed and the date of review to be recorded within the document
- Decisions impacting GP practices to be subject to consultation with the LMC with clear evidence to support discussions held

Actions will be completed by the responsible owner within the agreed timescale.

Taking account of the minor issues identified the auditors have concluded that there is reasonable assurance that the controls upon which the organisation relies to manage this area are suitably designed and consistently applied.

5. Berkshire West place update

Cessation of services from branch site

Following an application made by a South Reading GP Practice, Longbarn Lane Surgery, to cease providing clinical sessions from its branch location, services have ceased being provided from 1 July 2021.

COVID-19 had prevented the surgery from offering walk-in sessions previously provided at the site. Walk-in services had been limited to 3 hours per week and as the practice found they were able meet the needs of the 140 patients that used the site through remote access arrangements or from their main site a re-evaluation of its delivery model led the Practice to conclude that there was little value in continuing to run services from the branch. PCCC approved this application having had regard to the patient engagement undertaken and plans for communicating with affected patients so that they understood their options with regard to accessing care in future.

Primary Care Internal Audit

PCCC members previously received the internal audit report undertaken by PWC in 2020/21 which focussed on contract payments, discretionary payments, and GP practice COVID cost reimbursement payments. Due to COVID payments to GP practices being quite significant, the audit was split into two: business as usual and COVID-19 with the BAU element being rated as fully assured on the NHSE scale.

The CCG has been advised that the 2021/22 audit is likely to take place in Q2 and will focus on contract oversight and management functions.