

BRIEFING NOTE – REFRESH OF THE NHS COUNTY DURHAM AND DARLINGTON STRATEGIC PLAN AND QIPP

BACKGROUND

As part of the World Class Commissioning Assurance Framework that assesses the commissioning direction and ability of primary care trusts, NHS County Durham and Darlington must re-fresh its five year strategic plan.

This year's re-fresh of the strategic plan is being carried out in the context of a very different funding scenario than has been the case in previous years.

KEY MESSAGES

Significant work has been done across the NHS in the North East to generate planning assumptions based on likely future funding scenarios that will inform our commissioning strategy.

The likely financial scenario is that NHS County Durham and Darlington will receive the same funding allocation from 2011/12 – 2013/14 as it will receive in 2010/11.

This same allocation will however have to fund a considerable increase in pressure on the healthcare system that will be caused by:

- demographic changes and a growing and aging population
- new drugs and technologies approved by NICE
- inflation

This will mean current services will have to become more productive and efficiencies will need to be generated to allow continued investment in priority areas.

Whilst NHS County Durham and Darlington is not expecting a cut in its allocation, some providers of service will not receive the same level of funding as in previous years as services are re-designed to meet the health needs of the population. This will particularly be the case in areas that are not considered priorities as outlined in our joint strategic needs assessment.

The future funding scenarios will become progressively clearer following:

- the pre-budget report on the 9th December 2009
- the publication of the NHS Operating Framework for 2009 (expected in the week commencing 21st December 2009)
- the publication of technical guidance on the acute hospital tariff (expected in February 2010)