

Extended Primary Care Access (EPCA)

Position Statement for Adults Wellbeing and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee

1st April 2019

Background

1. DDES CCG undertook a public consultation on potential changes to the delivery of extended primary care access (EPCA) in the CCG geography. The service is currently delivered from nine hubs, three per locality, throughout the DDES area. Usage across the hubs was varied and there was concerns regarding sustainability and value for money of the current delivery model.
2. NHS policy dictates that the CCG fund primary care by £6 per head of population to deliver EPCA services. In DDES the current expenditure on these services is in excess of this. This was a conscious decision as the services were set up to deliver double the number of appointments required by NHS policy and there had been high historic use of urgent care services in the DDES area previously.
3. A six week public consultation took place during November and December 2018. The consultation was extended until the end of January 2019 to enable further engagement with the public and stakeholders.

Issues Raised During the Consultation

4. The intention of the CCG was to publish the outcome of the consultation and a recommended delivery model early in 2019. A number of issues were raised throughout the consultation which has warranted further consideration and analysis. A selection of the issues raised and the actions we have been taking are set out below:

Issue Raised	Actions Taken
Transport	Analysis of access to transport across the county undertaken Analysis of take up of current transport offer
Issues with NHS 111 service	Audit of 'missed opportunities undertaken' Outcome of calls to NHS 111 analysed
Use of services is increasing	Analysis of usage of service by practice/geography
Accessibility of NHS 111 service for patients with a learning disability	Review of training undertaken by NHS 111 staff
Public lack of understanding of how to access services	Analysis of use of NHS 111 since previous changes were made

Relevant Changes to GP Contracts

5. In addition to this, the NHS Long Term Plan and new GP contract have been published. The new GP contract sets out a change in the delivery of GP practice extended access services. Currently individual practices offer extended access for their patients, outside of core hours e.g. early mornings, evening clinics or weekend clinics. Currently all practices deliver this individually, but from July 2019 practices will work together in Primary Care Networks to deliver this service¹. This service is known as the Extended Access Directed Enhanced Service or DES. This has always been in addition to the extended access delivered by the nine hubs.
6. Primary Care Networks will be based on GP registered lists, typically serving natural communities of around 30,000 to 50,000. They will enable economies of scale through better collaboration between practices and others in the local health and social care system.
7. From April 2021 the funding used to deliver the extended access DES and the EPCA services will be combined with these services delivered by Primary Care Networks from this date. It is important that these services continue to offer convenient access for DDES patients and are delivered in an efficient way so as to make best use of available funding.
8. It is important that any changes proposed as a result of the EPCA consultation reflect the new delivery model for the extended access DES that will take place from July 2019. It is also important that all issues raised during the consultation are fully considered before final proposals are made.

Recommendations

9. The Adults Wellbeing and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee is asked to:
 - Receive this position statement giving an update
 - Note the actions taken to address issues raised during the consultation
 - Note the links between this consultation and the changes in the GP contract
 - Receive the outcome of the consultation and proposed delivery model at a future meeting

¹ <https://www.england.nhs.uk/gp/gpfv/redesign/primary-care-networks/>