

**Adult Wellbeing and Health  
Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

**February 2021**

**County Durham Primary Care  
Commissioning and Investment  
Strategy 2020-2022**



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**Report of Joseph Chandy, Director of Commissioning Strategy and  
Delivery - Primary Care, NHS County Durham Clinical  
Commissioning Group**

**Electoral division(s) affected:**

Countywide

**Purpose of the Report**

- 1 To present the Draft County Durham Primary Care Commissioning and Investment Strategy 2020-22 to the Adult Wellbeing and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, before ratification is sought by the County Durham CCG Governing Body on 16 March 2021.

**Executive summary**

- 2 The County Durham Primary Care Commissioning and Investment Strategy 2020-22, has been developed over many months and the priorities it sets out are based on input from member practices and wider stakeholders.
- 3 Since work on the strategy began, there have been a significant amount of changes in primary care, in large due to the response to the COVID-19 pandemic and changes to the national GP contract.

**Recommendation**

- 4 The County Durham Adult Wellbeing and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee are asked to:
  - (a) receive this report and note contents; and
  - (b) provide comment/feedback on the Draft County Durham Primary Care Commissioning and Investment Strategy 2020-22.

## **Background**

- 5 The County Durham CCG Primary Care Commissioning and Investment Strategy 2020-22 sets out how the CCG will deliver sustainable primary care services and better health outcomes for the people of County Durham.
- 6 Whilst we have made excellent progress against the out-going primary care strategies, in light of the NHS Long Term Plan and new GP contract framework, we must now refresh our strategy to ensure our ambitions are reframed and refocused.
- 7 We know primary care continues to face a number of challenges including workforce issues, changing health needs of the population and the shift in patient expectation. We now have the added challenge of operating in a world with COVID-19.
- 8 Since work on the strategy began, there have been a significant amount of changes in primary care, in large due to the response to the COVID-19 pandemic and changes to the national GP contract.
- 9 The CCG will continue to use the Local Incentive Scheme (LIS) as the vehicle to bring together all elements of the Primary Care Strategy. The scheme seeks to reduce inequality, reduce any opportunity for a post code delivery of services and encourages prevention, integration and the future development of Primary Care Networks as the building blocks of place based services across County Durham. It is intended that the LIS becomes a three year scheme from April 2021.
- 10 The draft strategy takes into account the recommendations from the Overview and Scrutiny Review of GP Services in County Durham (October 2020).
- 11 The strategy offers background detail to the primary care chapter in the County Durham Commissioning and Delivery Plan 2020-25.

## **Strategy development**

- 12 The strategy has been developed with input from key stakeholders over an extended period due to the significant impact of COVID-19 on original timescale.
- 13 Pre-COVID engagement activity included early engagement with the CCG Patient, Public and Carer Engagement Committee and Patient Reference Groups. We also carried out a practice survey in November 2019, which had a 70% response rate. Emerging themes from patients and practices are summarised in appendix 3 of the strategy document.

- 14 In May 2020, general practice staff were asked to complete an online survey regarding changes to working practices catalysed by COVID-19 and the changes needed in the light of recent experiences. In total, 152 primary care workers responded to the survey. Key findings were incorporated into the strategy; and were reported to the County Durham Adult Wellbeing and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee in October 2020.
- 15 We also took on board the findings from the public engagement on the use of digital consultations in GP practice, which was took place in June and July 2020. In total there were 1,157 respondents from County Durham. These were also reported to the Committee in October 2020.
- 16 The recommendations from the Overview and Scrutiny Review of GP Services in County Durham, reported in October 2020, were also taken in consideration as part of the strategy development.
- 17 In November 2020 we produced a draft strategy document incorporating feedback from previous engagement both pre and during COVID-19; with an accompanying video presentation. A short survey was developed which included the following questions:
  - Do you agree with our vision outlined in the strategy?
  - Are our priorities right?
  - Are there any other areas that need to be included in the strategy?
- 18 The draft strategy, video presentation and survey were publicised via Headlines and the CCG website. The CCG engagement team emailed key stakeholders and promoted the strategy survey at all Patient Reference Group meetings throughout November 2020. The engagement report is attached for reference.
- 19 Comment on the draft strategy was sought during a Governing Body development session; also the CCG Quality Committee and the Local Medical Council.
- 20 Feedback from the latest round of engagement has been incorporated into a revised draft of strategy which was presented to the CCG Executive Committee meeting on 26 January 2021.
- 21 A GP practice focus group has provided input into the strategy and also editorial oversight.

## Next steps

- 22 Following comments/feedback from the County Durham Adult Wellbeing and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee and County Durham Health and Wellbeing Board members, formal ratification will be sought from the CCG Governing Body. The final version of strategy will be made available to CCG members, partner organisations and the public via the CCG website.
- 23 The next challenge will be to further develop the detailed, timed implementation plan for the strategy. This process will be led by the CCG Director of Commissioning Strategy and Delivery responsible for Primary Care Director and will be overseen by the Primary Care Commissioning Committee.
- 24 Local patient groups will be a central part of the development and monitoring of the implementation plan. Patient involvement should help to maintain momentum, drive agreed change and therefore increase the likelihood of successful delivery of the strategy.
- 25 The CCG will also need to ensure that it has the ability to adjust plans to meet any must do's requested by NHS England.

## Recommendation

- 26 The County Durham Adult Wellbeing and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee are asked to:
  - (a) receive this report and note contents; and
  - (b) provide comment/feedback on the Draft County Durham Primary Care Commissioning and Investment Strategy 2020-22.

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## **Appendix 1: Implications**

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### **Legal Implications**

Not applicable

### **Finance**

The strategy provides a breakdown of the 2020/21 annual budget for primary care and the projected funding into Primary Care Networks.

### **Consultation**

Engagement with key stakeholders has informed strategy development.

### **Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty**

The County Durham CCG Primary Care Commissioning and Investment Strategy 2020-2022 aims to ensure high quality, primary care services which are accessible to all.

### **Human Rights**

None

### **Crime and Disorder**

Not applicable

### **Staffing**

A priority within the strategy is broadening the primary care team. There is a commitment to within the strategy to develop a Primary Care Workforce Plan by April 2021, which describes in detail investment and actions to address workforce challenges and develop a workforce that are key to enabling primary care transformation, through engagement with Primary Care Networks, wider professions and stakeholders.

### **Accommodation**

Reference to estates is made within the strategy.

### **Risk**

Impact of COVID-19 on strategy development and delivery

### **Procurement**

Not applicable

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**Appendix 2: Draft County Durham Primary Care Commissioning  
and Investment Strategy 2020-2022**

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## **Appendix 3: Engagement Report November 2020**

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