

Adults Wellbeing and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee



3 July 2013

NHS England – Durham, Darlington and Tees Area Team

Report of Lorraine O'Donnell, Assistant Chief Executive

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of this report is to introduce to members a presentation by Ben Clark, Assistant Director: Clinical Strategy for Durham Darlington and Tees Area Team setting out its role and function as the local area presence for the NHS England (previously known as the NHS Commissioning Board).

Background

2. NHS England is the body nationally accountable for the outcomes achieved by the NHS and which also provides leadership for the new NHS Commissioning system. Established in June 2011, the NHS England has operated in shadow form in October 2011 and became fully operational on 1 April 2013.
3. NHS England is responsible for £80bn budget and will allocate £60bn directly to Clinical Commissioning Groups. It also directly commissions a range of services including primary care and specialised services and has a key role in improving broader public health outcomes.
4. It has now established Area Teams who are the local offices of NHS England. They will have a number of core functions around direct commissioning, the development and assurance of clinical commissioning groups (CCGs), emergency planning, resilience and response, quality and safety, partnerships and service reconfiguration and system oversight.
5. NHS North of England is the regional presence of the NHS England across the north and will provide strategic leadership, including coordination and oversight of Area Teams. It will work with CCGs and partners across the north to ensure we have a strong and innovative commissioning system that improves outcomes for patients.
6. There are 27 Area Teams across England and they will be accountable for the direct commissioning responsibilities for GP services, dental services, pharmacy and certain aspects of optical services, specialised commissioning, offender health commissioning and military health commissioning.

7. Ten Area Teams will lead on specialised commissioning across England with Cumbria, Northumberland, Tyne and Wear (CNTW) undertaking this on behalf of Durham, Darlington and Tees.
8. The Durham, Darlington and Tees Area Team will undertake primary care and offender health commissioning on behalf of CNTW. Military health is being led by the in North Yorkshire and Humber Area Team.

Durham, Darlington and Tees LAT

9. Dr Mike Guy, has been appointed medical director for Durham, Darlington and Tees Area Team and has been invited to attend today's Adults Wellbeing and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee to present members with information around the role and function of the Area Team.
10. This will be an important opportunity for the Committee to develop its relationship with the Area Team and share expectations on the contribution that it can make to support the improvement of health, reduction in health inequalities and the improvement in healthcare experiences for the people of County Durham. This will build on the previous recommendations agreed by the Committee regarding the development of closer working relationships between the Adults Wellbeing and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee and NHS Partner organisations as well as recently agreed changes to the Constitution of the Council in respect of Health Scrutiny.

Recommendation

11. Members are asked to note the information contained within this report and the presentation provided by the Area Team and agree to further periodic updates on the work of Durham, Darlington and Tees Area Team.

Background Papers – None

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Appendix 1: Implications

Finance - None

Staffing - None

Risk - None

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty – None

Accommodation - None

Crime and Disorder – None

Human Rights – None

Consultation – None.

Procurement - None

Disability Issues – None

Legal Implications – The engagement of local authorities within proposals for NHS service transformation is a requirement of the Health and Social Care Act 2012.