



Kent Local Medical Committee

Supporting list based personalised care, the partnership model and meaningful collaboration

8 Roebuck Business Park, Ashford Rd, Harrietsham, Kent ME17 1AB
Tel. 01622 851197 Fax. 01622851198

Making Connections in NHS West Kent CCG March 2019

Drs John Burke, Richard Claxton, Mark Ironmonger, Daniel Kerley, Zishan Syed and Caroline Rickard joined Mrs Liz Mears at the recent LMC/CCG liaison meeting. Dr Bob Bowes and Mrs Gail Arnold attended on behalf of the CCG.

Rapid Response Team

The functionality of MDTs was discussed. There are 6 coordinators for 7 clusters. The CCG agreed to look into the feasibility of a receipt/response from LRU to give practices assurances that referrals have been received and actioned. The CCG are working with the provider of Rapid Response team to report service issues.

Diabetic Retinal Eye Screening Service

A question was raised around why unable to use GOS18 form as Opticians do. Current process is that patients stay in programme with no or minimal, severe go straight to hospital, those who are in the grey area – go to HES to confirm R2 status, Non-DM eye disease currently refer back to GP. LMC would like them to go directly to Community Ophthalmology Team.

iPlato/mJOG

The CCG purchases a block of credits in advance. As of 3rd December 2018 4000 credits were remaining and iPlato warn the CCG when credit is running low. 3% of patients are signed up to myGP, this functions without the use of credits and to use this would be beneficial.

NELFT Eating Disorder Service

Following concerns raised previously around GPs being expected to prescribe outside their clinical competency, the CCG reported from September 2018 that the Eating Disorder Service are doing blood tests at Pudding Lane. GPs to refer any further instances to the CCG. The CCG will also look into ECG question as this should be carried out by the service.

Online consultation

West Kent CCG have commenced with another procurement. Funding from previous years has been protected. The LMC offered GP input to help understand general practice requirements.

NHS Long Term Plan

Challenges around PCNs and the variation across Kent and Medway was discussed.

What does it mean to be an Accountable Clinical Director? Consistency vs autonomy across the system. Merging of CCGs into one organisation will have to be approved by members once recommended by the Governing Body. Plan to discuss further with GPs in April 2019.

Much of the transactional management that we think of as commissioning at the moment will take place within ICPs in future with its own governance process. The Joint Committee of CCGs is now commissioning cancer services across Kent and Medway and it is likely that Mental Health and Children's services will follow over 2019.

GMS Contract 2019/24

The group discussed the main contractual changes and in particular Primary Care Networks (PCNs). The LMC has been presenting a short summary of the changes at PLTs and focussing in on PCNs. Constructing PCNs is a practice requirement and should be general practice led. The LMC is also engaging with Practice Manager groups.

Shared Care

It was discussed that shared care agreements should be only on agreement of the individual GP. If the GP declines, then the consultant/other provider must continue to prescribe for the individual patient.

There were discussions around Gender Identity Medication. The GPC are working on these national issues.

Prime Provider in West Kent

CCG reported MTW will be screening all referrals including private providers who are providing NHS work to help manage waiting lists. Patients are entitled to exercise choice, and this will be taken into account. MTW will provide consistency across the system.

Primary Care Budgets

The LMC wrote to all CCGs asking what plans are in place to spend the Primary Care budget. The CCG reported that monies are being spent on practices – in resilience support and assistance for mergers. Have protected as much money as can. The CCG feel they have committed budgets as they should have done. The CCGs are working on enhanced services Kent Wide. Also, PCNs it is unclear where the funding for this will be and from where. Concerns

raised around workforce, liabilities and allied health professionals.

Mental Health Services

As previously raised, the LMC is concerned about the mental health provision across Kent & Medway. A task & finish group has been set up to look at referrals as significant numbers were being rejected. There was agreement referrals will not be rejected for missing information. Concerns still remain that GPs are managing very mentally unwell patients who require secondary care intervention. Primary Care Mental Health Workers are welcomed, but this does not resolve issues.

Electronic Referral Services (eRS)

The CCG reported that cardiology/respiratory and suspected cancer can be referred consultant to consultant. All onward referrals should be permitted if related to the original problem or urgent, as per [NHSE Guidance](#) (page 3). Directory of Service issues still exist.

Enhanced Services/Unfunded Work

Meetings have taken place. Kent CCGs are looking for 3 principles; common specification, common outcomes and common price across Kent and Medway. Starting point and pace of change are potential challenges. No practice will be worse off, funding will not be levelled down, only up.

First specification to be reviewed at a meeting on the 6th March 2019. Internal conversations to also look at the GPSI services. Phase 1: 24/48 hour ECG, ECG, 24/48 hour BP monitoring, Women's Health IUCD in/out, Treatment Room Services (Ear Syringing), Complex Wound Care, Phlebotomy. Phase 2 – to include PSA monitoring and Spirometry as well as other services to be confirmed.

Dermatology Service

Dermatology Service are now discharging without open access to the dermatologists, which is putting pressure on GPs to provide dermatology follow up. The CCG was asked to reintroduce the open access to dermatologists for 3 months if treatment fails. CCG to make changes.

Date of Next Meeting:

18th June 2019

Mrs Liz Mears
Director of Operations