



Weekly operational update for local general practice

Friday, 10 January, 2020

Welcome to Insight, Devon Local Medical Committee's operational update for GPs and practice managers.

Draft PCN service specifications

Devon LMC encourages local GP practices to feed back on NHS England and NHS Improvement's (NHSE&I) draft Primary Care Network (PCN) service specifications. You can complete the survey [here](#). The LMC is concerned that the increased workload proposed is not matched with additional resource/funding and that the expectation to deliver is unrealistic when General Practice has not yet been stabilised by the advent of the PCN DES. There is therefore a high risk of further destabilisation of General Practice before it has had any benefit from the first phase of the PCN DES.

To that end we have written to NHSE&I and the General Practitioners Committee (GPC) stating that Devon LMC cannot support these draft specifications and without a radical redraft in terms of content, funding and timing we would have no option but to recommend to our practices that they should consider withdrawing from the PCN DES. We would in this instance recommend that they remain federated within their PCN groupings and we would look to support them and work with our Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) to minimise disruption to Devon's patients. The letter is available on our Leadership Hub.

The GPC will engage with NHSE&I in negotiations on the service specifications in the coming weeks and this will be influenced by the responses to the consultation.

To support feedback, the GPC has produced a [summary](#) to help break down what is required, who from the PCN workforce could deliver it, what the role of the community teams might be and what the outcome measures are.

New LMC Recruitment and Workforce Lead

The LMC has recruited a new member of staff – Fi Gardiner formerly of Devon Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) – who has joined us as our Recruitment and Workforce Lead. She will analyse the recruitment and workforce situation in Devon to see where the LMC can add value and drive greater coherency.

Election of CCG Locality Clinic Representatives

The LMC is running an election process on behalf of Devon Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) for CCG Locality Clinic Representatives in the North, East and West. GPs and Practice Managers have been sent information today about the process.

Non site specific / vague symptoms pathway briefing for GPs

South West Cancer Alliances have produced a briefing for GPs on the non site specific / vague symptoms pathway. Read more [here](#).

Faecal Immunochemical Testing for Symptomatic Patients (FIT 10)

The Peninsula Cancer Alliance has provided an update for GPs about the routine use of FIT 10 as a cost-effective tool for the earlier diagnosis of cancer. Read more [here](#).

Dementia training videos

The South West Mental Health Clinical Network (SWMHCN) has produced a series of short dementia training videos aimed at GPs to build upon existing knowledge. They are available [here](#).



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New Year's honours

Congratulations to Professor John Campbell, Professor in General Practice and Primary Care at Exeter University, who was awarded an OBE for services to general practice in the New Year's honours list.

Explaining new team roles

Public Health England (PHE) has produced [marketing material](#) to promote understanding among patients of some of the roles being deployed in Primary Care Networks (PCNs). They cover care navigators, clinical pharmacists, paramedics, physician associates, mental health therapists, social prescribing link workers, healthcare assistants, general practice nurses and advanced clinical practitioners.

PCN Tweet chat – 14 January, 8pm

Join Dr Nikki Kanani [@NikkiKF](#) Medical Director of Primary Care for NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSE&I) and Professor Simon Gregory [@SimonDGregory](#) Health Education England's (HEE) Deputy Medical Director for Primary and Integrated Care as they discuss [#primarycarenetworks](#) and workforce challenges.

New research on building effective teams in general practice

The King's Fund – a national health think tank – has produced a new guide drawing on insights from its research, policy analysis and leadership practice to outline ways in which GP practices can create and sustain effective teams, as they come together to form Primary Care Networks (PCNs). Read more [here](#).

Social prescribing webinar

The National Association of Link Workers (NALW) is running a short webinar on Thursday, 30 January, about Social Prescriber Link Workers and their involvement in Primary Care Networks (PCNs). PCNs can register [here](#).

Influenza 2020/21 letter

NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSE&I) has published a [letter](#) based on the recommendations by the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) which sets out the vaccines that should be offered to eligible people and the reimbursement guidance for 2020/21.

Schedule change to routine childhood immunisations (PCV)

Babies born from 1 January this year will move to a new schedule for the PCV vaccination programme. They will receive one dose at 12 weeks and one booster dose at 1 year of age.

This is a positive change reflecting the success of the PCV vaccine and should be well received by parents as babies will now receive only two injectable vaccines at each of the 8, 12, and 16 week appointments.

Babies born before 31 December 2019 will continue to receive two primary doses (8 and 16 weeks) and one booster dose at 1 year of age. Read more [here](#).

General Practice IT Survey

NHS Digital provides a framework (GPSoc and from 2020 Digital Care Services) for GP practices to obtain IT systems. GP practices are asked to complete a short [survey](#) to help NHS Digital understand the benefits realised through the use of these IT systems to help shape its future strategy.

Pensions update

Primary Care Support England (PCSE) has provided an [update](#) about the end of year pension administration processes for 2020 and the Annual Benefit Statements (ABS).