

PCM Newsletter

March 2014

These are rapidly changing times with a number of interesting opportunities along with plenty of challenges. Primary Care Manchester is well placed to help practices (both individually and as a group) take advantage of these opportunities and ensure the sustainability of General Practice.

Many other areas, locally and nationally, are now developing their own GPPOs broadly along the same lines as ours. We have offered help and support to our colleagues in the North, who are in process of setting up their own organisation, and been involved in discussions about joint working with South Manchester's GP Federation.

Our innovative use of EMIS Web (which we are developing with EMIS) has attracted a great deal of interest from commissioners and other primary care organisations. It has given us a unique selling point which will be invaluable when tendering for services.

Working with Commissioners

We have had constructive meetings with the CCG to review progress to date and think about how to continue to work together effectively. We feel that the CCG continues to see that PCM is an important part of the future of primary care and a series of further meetings is planned. The CCG has made it clear that partnerships between us and other significant providers will be very, very much more likely to attract funding than projects done by us alone.

We are due to meet with the City Council shortly regarding opportunities related to Public Health contracts.

Working with the LMC

We continue to work closely with the LMC to ensure that our work fits with the priorities of GPs and fits the political backdrop.

Our aim is to support primary care and maintain the things that we value while also developing primary care services to meet the challenges we face.

General Meeting

We are holding a general meeting on Wednesday 14th May, 1-3pm at the Hough End Centre. There are two main areas for discussion; the new,

finalised shareholder's agreement and our strategic direction including partnerships between providers.

Shareholder's agreement

As you may recall we have had to reissue the shareholder's agreement due to errors. We now have the new agreement ready to sign. This will be circulated and can be signed and returned if practices are happy with it. If there are any questions or issues please contact us at pcm.enquires@nhs.net. We will also be happy to discuss any concerns or clarifications at the general meeting on the 14th May.

Alliance contracts

We have had meetings with other local providers about working together in the future. These include CMFT, NWS, GoToDoc, Manchester City Council and Manchester Mental Health and Social Care Trust. The CCG has initiated steps towards agreeing a formal alliance contract, and has indicated that this type of alliance is where future funding is going to come from. Historically, there has been distrust of the motives and strategy of other providers and so we want to be open about our discussions and plans.

In parallel to this, we have set up a joint working group of directors at PCM and senior executives at CMFT. We plan to discuss this further on the 14th May.

Data sharing agreements and EMIS Web

As a GPPO we have several unique selling points. We bring the engagement of our shareholders, coverage of the 217 000 patients in Central Manchester and experience and expertise in primary care service delivery. We have another USP in our innovative use of the EMIS Web system to allow our services to benefit from continuity of information, sharing access to notes between practices and our extended access service for instance.

The current software uses an innovative and unique data sharing approach, possible through EMIS Web, that allows doctors working for us to access (with consent) the full patient medical record. Data access controls are as tight as possible for a functional system and we will keep this under review. There is an audit trail for every single access to the system made by any user. Staff booking appointments do not have any access to the clinical records. We are working closely with EMIS to develop the system further and introduce further restrictions on data sharing.

Primary Care Manchester Limited

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Our projects are dependent upon our shareholders signing and returning the data sharing agreements. If there are any questions or issues please contact us at pcm.enquires@nhs.net.

'Demonstrator' funded projects

The 'Demonstrator' funding is coming to an end as it was for projects in this financial year only. The projects below are now being considered for further funding from the 'Better Care Fund' and/or the CCG.

Extended access – renewal of funding pending.

Now that this service is becoming established we ask practices to stick to their allocation of appointments and this will be made clearer in the appointment system. We will be giving feedback to practices that over use the service. Quotas are based on practice patient list size and the timing of slots is to allow travel time for patients from practices furthest from the host site. Quotas will be reviewed each quarter to ensure changes in list size are incorporated.

Despite early teething issues the service is running in Whalley Range at The Range Medical Centre, in Longsight at Shiv Lodge, in Rusholme at The Robert Darbishire Practice and in Ardwick at Dr Cunningham's Practice (in The Vallance Centre).

Appointments are offered from 6-8pm Monday to Friday and 9-12am Saturday and Sunday. The appointments are bookable via EMIS Web and can be booked by any practice in that geographical area.

Patients who present very late in the day or who prefer late appointments can be booked into this service by their practice. This is additional capacity that provides extended availability for the benefit of our patients without increasing workload for an individual practice.

Long term conditions – Diabetes & Left Ventricle Systolic Dysfunction – funding pending.

A service is being discussed to support practices that don't currently offer the LESs for these conditions.

If this service is commissioned it should allow secondary care services to be decommissioned and resources freed up to transfer to primary care. We will ensure that these services are appropriately funded as we recognise the significant work of providing an excellent service to this complex group of patients.

Homeless Project.

The Homeless project is up and running, based at Dr Cunningham's practice. 150 patients have been registered and there is funding for this to be extended to significantly more.

Care homes – funding pending.

The parameters of this project have changed significantly now that it is under the 'Better Care Fund'. The project will be provided by a partnership between CMFT and PCM Ltd rather than being our project alone. The funding has also been cut substantially. As a result we plan to phase this in over 6 months to reduce costs and limit the scope of the project so that it covers standard nursing and residential care but not specialist homes looking after people with predominantly learning difficulty or mental health needs. We hope to extend to all care homes if appropriate funding becomes available. We also plan to drop the GP triage element of the CCG's initial plan as although it might provide a faster response to homes the possible fragmentation and loss of continuity would have negated this possible advantage.

Dropping the GP triage element of the commission allows more GPs to be involved and we are working to identify GPs and homes for them to look after with payments for annual reviews given through this project. We will keep the documentation to a minimum and aim to maintain relationships between homes and GPs that are already functioning well.

The current 'Nursing home support team' will still be extended to cover residential homes.

We will aim to provide education to care home staff and spread good practice across Central Manchester. We will use EMIS Web to ensure transfer of information from the service to GPs and to enable this service to see the full medical notes. The aim will be to improve care, manage some of the workload on practices and reduce those hospital admissions that can be avoided. We will send out further details soon.

Winter pressure projects

GP in OMU

This service went live in February in collaboration with CMFT. The idea being that a suitably experienced GP would enable early discharge of patients from the OMU annexe of A&E. There is a little way to run, and on completion there will be an analysis of its impact.

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Other projects

Mental health services

We are talking to interested parties about the future of mental health services in the city and how we can position our company to provide parts of this service if the opportunity arises. We hope to work with a lead provider and the GPPOs in North and South Manchester to put together a bid that maintains the parts of the service that work well and provides new solutions and priorities where they are needed. Our aim is to be the provider of the parts of this service that can best be provided in primary care in Central Manchester.

Phlebotomy

Negotiations with CMFT continue about a better way to organise and deliver adult and children's phlebotomy services across Central Manchester. The complex mix of historic funding arrangements and services is a challenge to navigate in order to create an effective equitable service but we continue to explore the possibilities.

Bids for other funding

Prime Minister's Challenge Fund

We have made a bid for £4.25million from the 'Prime Minister's Challenge Fund' to support primary care in Central Manchester. We are hopeful that NHS England has supported our bid and put it forward to the Prime minister's office for consideration. The announcement of the results is expected at the end of the month.

Representing Central Manchester Primary Care

We are continuing to attend committees including:

Central Manchester Provider Partnership

Central Manchester Integrated Care Board

Central Manchester CCG Engagement & Reference Group

Central Manchester Urgent Care Board

Manchester LMC & Tri-Manchester GPPOs

To try to be a voice for primary care and to understand the changes, challenges and opportunities primary care faces.

Next steps

We continue to explore other possible partnerships with local healthcare organisations.

We see the ideal future as one where there are strong GPPOs in each CCG area and we are collaborating with neighbouring GPPOs to share knowledge and participate in joint projects including those around mental health services.

If you would like to be involved in developing one of the services mentioned or you have an idea for a project or service that we should consider, then please get in touch at pcm.enquiries@nhs.net or directly with any of the directors below.

Best wishes,

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