

NHS North of Tyne – ongoing and upcoming activity Briefing

Stakeholder engagement over plans for health spending in 2012/13

The two clinical commissioning groups for North Tyneside – Engage Healthcare and CareFirst – are engaging with stakeholders over their future plans for health spending in the borough.

Two events have been organised (taking place this Wednesday and Thursday) to give people the opportunity to find out more about the commissioning plans for the coming year and to have the opportunity to discuss their views with GP leads from the two CCGs in the borough.

CareFirst and Engage Healthcare will officially take over responsibility for commissioning local health services on behalf of patients in April 2013 but before that time they are starting to take the lead on planning for health spending from the current statutory commissioner, North Tyneside PCT (served by NHS North of Tyne).

The new plan for health spending won't be formalised until March next year. It will replace the 2011/12 North Tyneside locality delivery plan which was approved in March this year and which is available online at www.northoftyne.nhs.uk

Any qualified provider (AQP) – diagnostic services

Community Healthcare Forum (CHCF) undertook a piece of work on behalf of NHS North of Tyne during late October / early November to understand from local people what information they would need to be able to choose between one or more providers of diagnostic services.

CHCF gathered the views of 49 residents through a focus group, 1 to 1 discussions and use of the online survey. The majority of people said the location of the service provider (i.e. whether it had good transport links and parking), the length of waiting times for appointments, and the reputation of the provider would all be information they would need to be able to choose between two or more providers. Most people said their GP was the best person to give them that information and that they would prefer to have it in writing as well as face to face.

The information CHCF have gathered, along with responses to the survey, will be used to inform an implementation pack to be used by NHS commissioners across the country when they are introducing Any Qualified Provider for diagnostic services. This implementation pack is being pulled together by NHS Plymouth who asked for NHS North of Tyne's support to gather views from people living in urban areas.

Winter flu vaccine campaign

Uptake of the seasonal flu vaccine in North Tyneside is good but the NHS is still urging anyone who hasn't had the vaccine yet – particularly pregnant women, children with health conditions and working age people with long term health conditions to come forward and get the jab.

These groups are particularly at risk and we know that the patients in these groups who were not vaccinated were in the majority of patients who were admitted to hospital last year with complications from flu.

In addition to being able to get the vaccine from their GP practice, patients can also go to a number of participating pharmacies to get their flu jab. Details of the pharmacies where the flu vaccine is available free to eligible NHS patients are on the NHS North of Tyne website www.northoftyne.nhs.uk

National review of children's heart services: Judicial review outcome

On 7 November a High Court judicial review upheld a complaint brought by the Royal Brompton and Harefield NHS Foundation Trust regarding the consultation on the future of children's heart surgery services.

A response to the judicial review decision from the national NHS Safe and Sustainable team is available online at:

www.specialisedservices.nhs.uk/news/view/76. The Joint Committee of Primary Care Trusts (JCPCT) are intending to appeal against the decision, which means that any final decision about the recommendations from the consultation has now been deferred to early in 2012. When we have further information about the next steps the national Safe and Sustainable team will be taking we will share them with the LINK.

Complaints

North Tyneside LINK asked for information that goes to our Joint Board about complaints received by NHS North of Tyne. We are happy to meet and talk through the process and agree which information would be most useful for the LINK.