

Agenda Item 07

Report to: (Board/Sub-Committee):	Primary Care Commissioning Committee
Date of Meeting:	26 th November 2019
Subject:	General Practice – Potential Capacity Measures
Presented by:	Julie Wilson, Assistant Director Commissioning

STATUS OF THE REPORT (auto check relevant box)

For Information

For Discussion

For Approval / Ratification

Report Exempt from Public Disclosure No Yes

<p>PURPOSE OF REPORT:</p>	<p>Committee members will recall that through the development of the primary care strategy an issue was considered regarding current capacity within general practice and whether there is sufficient capacity locally.</p> <p>At the time the strategy was approved, the PCCC acknowledged that there is no single measure to determine primary care capacity and considered the current information available. The Committee noted that the local position in relation to primary care workforce demonstrated a good position and that there were plans for 2019/20 to improve access and introduce initiatives to alleviate workload, such as signposting patients to more appropriate services, where applicable. It was therefore agreed there wouldn't be any plans to secure additional capacity during 2019/20. However, it was agreed that a number of measures should be reviewed at the end of 2019/20 so that this issue could be reviewed.</p> <p>The PCCC agreed in principle a number of measures that would guide any future decision regarding primary care capacity, and this paper sets out the proposed expectation for the end of March 2020. It should be noted, however, that these measures cannot represent a definitive position in isolation and would still need to be considered alongside any other factors that may be pertinent at that point.</p>
<p>Recommendations:</p>	<p>The PCCC is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review the proposed measures and suggest any additional measures • Agree the March 2020 expectation
<p>Sub Committee Process and Assurance:</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Implications:</p>	
<p>Risk Assurance Framework Implications:</p>	<p>There is a risk to continued effective and safe delivery of primary care services if there is insufficient capacity locally. This is managed through the CCG's risk register.</p>
<p>Legal Implications:</p>	<p>The CCG has delegated responsibility for the commissioning of general medical services within NEL.</p>

General Practice – Potential Capacity Measures

Introduction

Committee members will recall that through the development of the primary care strategy one of the points that was highlighted and discussed was the issue regarding current capacity within general practice and whether there is sufficient capacity locally.

As the provision of general practice services is changing, there is no single indicator or calculation that would provide a definitive answer as to whether additional capacity is required, and any decision needs to be taken in the round, within the context of local need, and based on the information we have available to us. The PCCC considered the information available at the time the strategy was approved; it was acknowledged that the combined workforce figures for general practice represented a good position and that there were plans to improve access and introduce initiatives such as signposting to other services, where appropriate. A decision was therefore taken not to secure additional capacity for 2019/20. However, it was agreed that a number of measures should be considered at the end of 2019/20 so that this position could be reviewed.

The PCCC agreed in principle a number of measures that would guide any future decision regarding primary care capacity, and this paper sets out the proposed expectation for the end of March 2020. It should be noted, however, that these measures cannot represent a definitive position in isolation and would still need to be considered alongside any other factors that may be pertinent at that point.

Proposed Measures and Expected Position March 2020

Measure	Baseline (data as at March 2019)	Expected position March 2020	Comments
Number of full-time equivalent GPs per 100,000 patients	47	47	No deterioration would reflect a net position in terms of new GPs being recruited and existing GPs leaving or retiring
Primary Care Workforce: Number of GPs and practice nurses (full-time equivalent) per 1,000 weighted patients	1.22	1.22	No deterioration would reflect a net position in terms of new nurses and GPs being recruited and existing GPs and nurses leaving or retiring
Overall experience of GP practice	80%	81%	Data for annual patient survey for 2019/20 will not be available until July / August 2020
Access to online consultation methods	28%	75%	Current plans are in place to meet the national requirement of 75%
Use of patient online services: Repeat prescriptions	20.8%	25%	Plan is to improve to match the Humber Coast and Vale average

It should be noted that these measures can only guide any discussion and decision, and will need to be considered within the context of any other factors, e.g. amended national guidance or local plans, at that time.

Recommendation

The PCCC is asked to:

- Review the proposed measures and suggest any additional measures
- Agree the March 2020 expectation