

Agenda Item: 5

Report to: Primary Care Commissioning Committee
Date of meeting: 04/08/2020
Date paper distributed: 30/07/2020
Subject: Extended Access
Presented by: Sarah Dawson, Service Lead for Primary Care
Previously distributed to: N/A

STATUS OF THE REPORT (*auto check relevant box*)

Decision required	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
For Discussion to give Assurance	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>(Only if requested by Committee member prior to meeting)</i>
For Information	<input type="checkbox"/>
Report Exempt from Public Disclosure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes

PURPOSE OF REPORT:	This paper has been prepared to update the PCCC regarding the Extended Access service and to request that the PCCC considers the option to extend the interim service, which is currently commissioned until September 30 th 2020, via the Primary Care Networks for a further 6 months until March 31 st 2021 when the PCNs would be entitled to the funding. This will ensure continuation of the service.
Recommendations:	The PCCC is asked to approve the proposal to extend the interim service from October 1 st 2020 to March 31 st 2021 commissioned from PCNs.
Clinical Engagement	N/A
Patient/Public Engagement	N/A
Committee Process and Assurance:	PCCC

Link to CCG's Priorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable services • Empowering people 	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting communities • Fit for purpose organisation 	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
Are there any specific and/or overt risks relating to one or more of the following areas?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legal • Finance • Quality • Equality analysis (and Due Regard Duty) 	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data protection • Performance • Other 	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>

Provide a summary of the identified risk

Whilst there is still a potential risk of challenge from other providers for the period between the end of the current interim service and the time that the service will become an entitlement for PCNs (2021), this is low risk. The benefits of maintaining the link to the registered patient list, and not causing disruption to the service in the meantime outweigh this risk.

Executive Summary

Extended Access Update and Post September 30th 2020 Provision

Background

The NHS England planning guidance for 2017/18 set out expectations for extended access across England and the CCG's GP Forward View Delivery plan included the CCG's response to this.

As the CCG wished to retain the link to the registered patient list, practices were asked to collaborate to deliver this service; the vehicle used to do this was the Federations. In December 2017, CCC was asked to support the proposal to commission an extended access pilot delivered via the practice federations. The proposal was to commission the pilot commencing the latter winter period 2017/18 and was supported by the CCC in January 2018. Implementation of the service required further time than originally anticipated and in March 2018, the CCC supported an extension of the interim service until September 30th 2019 to allow sufficient time for data to be collected and the service to be reviewed. With the development of PCNs following the publication of the NHS Long Term Plan in January 2019, PCNs became the nationally recognised vehicle for commissioning from networks of practices. CCC and PCCC supported the decision to novate the interim arrangements for extended access across to the lead practices for the PCNs and this took place, July 2019. It did not represent any change in service, as the practices continued to deliver the service in the same way.

The CCC and PCCC supported an extension of the service to March 31st 2020 and then to September 30th 2020 to allow time for the results of the National Access Review to be assessed. Advice from the contracts team was to novate these interim arrangements across to the lead practices for the PCNs, now that this is a nationally recognised vehicle for commissioning from networks of practices, and this change has taken place.

Chairs Action was taken during the Covid pandemic to temporarily cease the Extended Access service and the CCG has recently written to PCNs requesting the service is restarted, where safe and practical to do so. The CCG is currently working with the PCNs on this.

This paper sets out the delivery of the service to date and the proposal for service delivery beyond September 30th 2020.

Service Update

The commissioned interim service commenced October 1st 2018 and is delivered by the 3 PCNs for their registered populations.

The service is delivered separately by 3 PCNs, providing services during the evenings and on weekends (7 days a week). Weekend cover for one of the Primary Care Networks (Freshney Pelham) is provided by Core Care Lincs on behalf of the PCN and is delivered from the GP Out of Hours base. The remaining PCNs provide their own cover.

The service provides appointments Monday-Friday during the evening and Saturday and Sunday mornings, although each PCN opens for different hours over the weekend. The service also provides appointments on Bank Holidays and hours are revised to reflect expected demand before, during and following the Bank Holiday.

Each service provides a range of clinics and utilises a range of staff including nurses, Health Care Assistants and GPs, offering both pre-bookable appointments and on the day and including Long Term Condition clinics.

The service is advertised on all practice websites, within practices as well as on social media and practice reception staff have received training and support to ensure they are offering the slots available. The CCG has also advertised through social media and on their website as well as through urgent care services.

Service Delivery October 2020 onwards

The results of a National Access Review are expected to be published by NHSE/I, which will inform the extended access specification. However, these are not yet available. In the meantime, NHSE has advised that where there is a short term contract “NHS England and NHS Improvement will be undertaking a review of extended access services this year. In the interim, it would make sense to only contract at £6 per head (or less) for the duration of the 2019/20 financial year, so as not to pre-empt the outcomes of the review”.

Given that the national direction is that the PCNs will be entitled to the funding for Extended Access from April 2021 the recommendation is that the interim service is extended for a further 6 months to March 31st 2021 through the PCNs. Any changes resulting from the National Access Review findings during the extended timeframe would look to be implemented during this time.

Recommendation

The PCCC is asked to:

- Approve the proposal to extend the interim service from October 1st 2020 to March 31st 2021 commissioned from PCNs.