**Agenda Item:**

**Report to:** Primary Care Commissioning Committee

**Date of meeting:** 01/06/2020

**Date paper distributed:** Click or tap to enter a date.

**Subject:** NHS England Update Report

**Presented by:** Helen Phillips, Head of Primary Care, NHS England

**Previously distributed to:** Click or tap here to enter text.

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

**Decision required**

**For Discussion to give Assurance**  *(Only if requested by Committee member prior to meeting)*

**For Information**

**Report Exempt from Public Disclosure**   No  Yes

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| --- | --- |
| **PURPOSE OF REPORT:** | This report will update the Committee on primary care medical matters, including contract issues, within North East Lincolnshire and provide national updates around primary medical care. |
| **Recommendations:** | It is recommended that the Primary Care Commissioning Committee note the updates |
| **Clinical Engagement** | N / A |
| **Patient/Public Engagement** | N / A |
| **Committee Process and Assurance:** | The Primary Care Commissioning Committee are responsible for the information within this report. |

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| **Link to CCG’s Priorities** | * Sustainable services * Empowering people |  | * Supporting communities * Fit for purpose organisation |  |
| **Are there any specific and/or overt risks relating to one or more of the following areas?** | * Legal * Finance * Quality * Equality analysis (and Due Regard Duty) |  | * Data protection * Performance * Other |  |

**Provide a summary of the identified risk**

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**Executive Summary**

This report will update the Committee on:

* Additional £120m Funding to Support General Practice April to September 2021
* Primary Medical Care Policy and Guidance Manual
* Digital Primary Care
* Community Pharmacy Consultation Service
* COVID-19
* Additional Clinical Director (CD) Payments
* Updated General Practice Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)

#### **Contract Changes**

There have been no applications for contractual changes submitted since the last meeting.

**Action for the Committee**

None

#### **2.** **NHS England Update**

**2.1 Additional £120m Funding to Support General Practice April to September 2021**

To provide further support to general practice at this critical moment, the General Practice COVID Capacity Expansion Fund is being extended from 1 April to 30 September 2021.

The conditions attached to the allocation and use of this funding are as set out in the initial letter of 9th November 2020 and systems are expected to use the funding to make further progress on the seven priorities identified in that letter:

1. Increasing GP numbers and capacity
2. Supporting the establishment of the simple COVID oximetry@home model, arrangements for which will be set out in a parallel letter shortly
3. First steps in identifying and supporting patients with Long COVID
4. Continuing to support clinically extremely vulnerable patients and maintain the shielding list
5. Continuing to make inroads into the backlog of appointments including for chronic disease management and routine vaccinations and immunisations
6. On inequalities, making significant progress on learning disability health checks, with an expectation that all CCGs will without exception reach the target of 67% by March 2021 set out in the inequalities annex to the third system letter. This will require additional focus given current achievement is one fifth lower than the equivalent position last year; and actions to improve ethnicity data recording in GP records
7. Potentially offering backfill for staff absences where this is agreed by the CCG, required to meet demand, and the individual is not able to work remotely.

Though this funding is not allocated to support COVID-19 vaccination directly, systems are expected to prioritise spending on any PCNs committed to deliver the COVID Vaccination Enhanced Service (including for cohorts 10-12) whose capacity requirements are greater.

On 17th May 2021, a letter was distributed to Clinical Directors via CCGs (Appendix 1) along with the North East Lincolnshire Primary Care Network (PCN) allocations (Appendix 2).

**Action for the Committee**

The Committee is asked to note this update

**2.2 Primary Medical Care Policy and Guidance Manual**

This is the manual that NHS England and GP practices use to support contract changes such as list closures etc. It is regularly updated, the most recent of which was February 2021. The link below is to the updated document and also highlights the changes

[NHS England » Primary Medical Care Policy and Guidance Manual (PGM)](https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/primary-medical-care-policy-and-guidance-manual-pgm/)

**Action for the Committee**

The Committee is asked to note this update

**2.4 Digital Primary Care**

Digital Primary Care is a revenue funding stream being made available by NHS England and NHS Improvement to support the development of Digital solutions across Primary Care. The programme runs from 2020/21 through to 2023/24 to support Practices, PCNs and the wider system. The main aims of the funding are to address core digital capabilities as well as looking to deliver wider transformation of primary care using digital tools to drive improvement, innovation and create better access.

In 2020/21 funding has been used to support the ongoing development of the Yorkshire and Humber Shared Care Record and to pilot several innovative projects including Artificial Intelligence in Online Consultations, understanding patient digital maturity and enabling video consultations in community settings. Funding is also going to be used for additional project resource to support the utilisation of digital tools in primary care, the mobilisation of the digitisation of Lloyd George records programme as well as understanding and developing schemes of work to support digital inclusion.

**Action for the Committee**

The Committee is asked to note this update

**2.5 Community Pharmacy Consultation Service**

Since starting in October 2019, the NHS Community Pharmacy Consultation Service (CPCS) has supported thousands of patients referred from NHS111 with medicine needs and management of minor acuity conditions. The service has now been extended to include referrals from General Practice for minor illnesses and conditions such as constipation, cough, sore throat and joint pain. All Practices have been contacted to make them aware of the programme and to ask for expressions of interest to take part.

**Action for the Committee**

The Committee is asked to note this update

**2.6 COVID-19**

Links below to regular updates provided to primary care and general practice regarding the emerging COVID-19 situation

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/coronavirus/primary-care/>

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/coronavirus/primary-care/general-practice/>

On Friday 7th May the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) guidance was updated in relation to the use of the AstraZeneca vaccine for some people aged under 40:

Use of the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine: JCVI statement, 7 May 2021 - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

On 20th May 2021, the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) approved the extension of the shelf life of the Pfizer vaccination from 5 days to 31 days in line with AstraZeneca.

This has enabled NHS England to work with Community Pharmacies across Humber, Coast and Vale (HCV) to explore with them the use of Pfizer within Community Pharmacy. As at 27th May 2021, 2 Community Pharmacy providers across North East Lincolnshire have been approved for the delivery of Pfizer vaccine providing additional capacity across the area (Rimmington’s delivering out of Centre 4 in Grimsby and Boots delivering out of Freshney Green in Grimsby).

**Action for the Committee**

The Committee is asked to note this update

**2.7 Additional Clinical Director (CD) Payments**

Additional PCN CD support was been made available between January to March 2021. This is an increase equivalent from 0.25WTE to 1WTE for this period. The additional monies will be paid separately to the usual CD payment by the NHS England Public Health team as part of the COVID-19 vaccination programme.

**Action for the Committee**

The Committee is asked to note this update

**2.8 Updated General Practice Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)**

On 13th May a letter was published with the updated SOP to support restoration of General Practice Services

[Letter template (england.nhs.uk)](https://www.england.nhs.uk/coronavirus/wp-content/uploads/sites/52/2020/03/B0497-GP-access-letter-May-2021-FINAL.pdf)

**Action for the Committee**

The Committee is asked to note this update