

April 2016

PSNC Briefing 028/16: Update on the Health and Care Landscape

This briefing is part of a series issued regularly by PSNC to inform pharmacy contractors and LPCs of developments in the wider health and care landscape beyond community pharmacy. It builds on the Health & Care Review articles which are published on the PSNC website every week.

NHS Outcomes Framework 2016/2017

The [NHS Outcomes Framework](#) for 2016/17 has been published and remains unchanged.

The framework is based on five domains, setting out national outcomes that the NHS should be working towards improving. Each domain has a number of overarching indicators and improvement areas.

Each domain and its indicators focus on improving health and reducing health inequalities. The domains are:

1. preventing people from dying prematurely;
2. enhancing quality of life for people with long-term conditions;
3. helping people to recover from episodes of ill health or following injury;
4. ensuring that people have a positive experience of care; and
5. treating and caring for people in a safe environment and protecting them from avoidable harm.

The framework is updated on an annual basis, and it is for NHS England to determine the best way to deliver the improvements.

CCG improvement and assessment framework launched

NHS England has launched a new [Improvement and Assessment Framework](#) for Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs), which will be available for patients to access from June 2016.

The framework will provide patients with an overview of how their local health service is performing, across six clinical areas:

- cancer;
- dementia;
- diabetes;
- mental health;
- learning disabilities; and
- maternity care.

A CCG's performance in each clinical area is to be verified by an independent panel.

As well as the six areas verified by the panels, the new framework will also report CCG performance in 29 key areas, including new models of care, efficiency and conflicts of interest management.

An annual assessment in June 2017 will incorporate additional information from the local Sustainability and Transformation Plans and other relevant data.

Supporting whistleblowers in primary care

A draft [guidance document](#) to support whistleblowing in the NHS, based on recommendations by the *Freedom to Speak Up* report, is available for [consultation](#) until 6th May 2016.

The draft document, *Freedom to speak up in Primary Care*, is intended to be used by primary care organisations to review their policies and procedures on staff raising concerns about safety. It details the principles and actions to apply in primary care to support the raising of concerns by staff about the delivery of services to patients and how the concern is handled.

The policy sets out:

- who can raise a concern;
- the process for raising a concern;
- how the concern will be investigated; and
- what will be done with the findings of the investigation.

In addition, from 1st April 2016, NHS England is a 'prescribed person' under the Public Interest Disclosure Order 1999, meaning primary care service staff working at GP surgeries, opticians, pharmacies and dental practices, can raise concerns about inappropriate activity directly.

Charity launches independent commission looking at NHS funding

The charity, the Patients Association, has [announced proposals](#) to establish an independent commission on funding of the NHS and social care.

The aim is to look at the current and future needs of the NHS and social care. It will assess funding and ways to provide resources to run a sustainable service for patients.

The principle of free treatment at the point of care will be used as a starting point and will consider how much to spend as a society, as well as possible sources of additional funding including tax, national insurance contributions and ring-fenced funding.

NHS England to tackle conflicts of interest

NHS England has [revealed](#) plans to tackle the problem of conflicts of interests, to provide public reassurance and confidence in how NHS funding is invested.

The measures announced include:

- revised guidance for CCGs on managing conflicts of interest;
- a cross NHS task and finish group to develop a full set of rules and proposals;
- a new requirement on providers in the [2016/17 NHS Standard Contract](#) to maintain and publish a register of gifts, hospitality and conflicts of interest; and
- NHS England's internal conflict of interest policy will be toughened up.

NHS England has also published an assessment report to review how conflicts of interest are currently being managed and how the existing statutory guidance for CCGs was being implemented.

What comes into force in April 2016?

April 2016 will see in a number of significant changes for health and care organisations in England. Several will affect NHS staff, service users, patients and services across the country.

NHS Confederation has published a feature [summarising the main changes](#) taking effect.

Older People's Health and Wellbeing

Public Health England (PHE) has published the [Older People's Health and Wellbeing Profile](#), a tool which can be used to examine the health and care of older people across local authorities in England.

The tool contains 95 interactive indicators and allows comparison and monitoring of trends in different regions across England.

Stakeholders who produce Joint Strategic Needs Assessments in local areas may use the PHE profiles to procure evidence and intelligence to support their developments. Those responsible for delivering strategies for prevention and early intervention to improve the health and wellbeing of older adults may also find this tool of use to provide support and information.

The indicators presented in this profile underline the scope to improve health outcomes by ensuring that all older people receive the opportunities, care and support delivered in the best-performing localities.

NHS England Business Plan 2016/2017

NHS England has published its [business plan for 2016/17](#), setting out its ten main priorities to focus on for the coming year.

The priorities are grouped under the following themes: improving health, transforming care and controlling costs. These themes build on the agenda of the [Five Year Forward View \(5YFV\)](#).

Prescription Cost Analysis, England – 2015

The Health & Social Care Information Centre (HSCIC) has published its [Prescription Cost Analysis \(PCA\) report](#), which provides details on the numbers and costs of all prescriptions dispensed in the community in England in 2015.

Key facts from the HSCIC PCA report include:

- in 2015, the cost of prescriptions dispensed in the community was £9.27 billion. An increase of 4.68% from £8.85 billion in 2014; and
- in 2015, 1.08 billion prescription items were dispensed in the community. An increase of 1.79% from 1.06 billion in 2014.

Tackling the growing crisis in the NHS

The King's Fund has published an [article](#) to identify the main problems faced by the NHS and offers practical solutions to help address them. The three big challenges identified are:

1. sustaining existing services and standards of care;
2. developing new and better models of care; and
3. tackling these challenges by reforming the NHS 'from within'.

The article describes what the challenges are in more detail, proposes a plan for action and provides links to resources for further information.

Charting progress on the health devolution journey: Early lessons from Greater Manchester

The Local Government Association (LGA) has published a [briefing document](#) outlining the broad lessons that can be learned from Greater Manchester's experience of health devolution.

A view on devolution from NHS England is presented in the document alongside Greater Manchester's devolution journey so far.

The LGA document also discusses the positives, ongoing challenges and key themes from the devolution roundtable discussions.

Sustainability and Transformation Plans – A Major Development in Commissioning

Regional Voices has published a short [briefing](#) which aims to explain Sustainability and Transformation Plans (STPs) and their role in delivering the NHS 5YFV.

It also provides more details on STPs and guidance on how to get involved in local areas.

List of CCGs taking on co-commissioning arrangements

NHS England has [published a list](#) of CCGs who have taken on greater responsibility for the commissioning of primary medical services through either a joint or delegated arrangement.

There will be more opportunities for CCGs without joint or delegated arrangements to take up greater responsibility for the commissioning of general practice services in the future.

Update on rising scarlet fever across England

Further to the [Health & Care Review](#) story on scarlet fever published on 18th March 2016, PHE has reported the [continuous increase](#) in cases of the infectious disease.

England has seen 1,319 new cases during 21st – 27th March 2016. A total of 10,570 cases of scarlet fever have now been reported since the season began in September 2015.

Weekly activity so far this season has been similar or slightly above last year's figures. This is the third season in a row in which elevated scarlet fever activity has been noted.

How is the new NHS structured?

The King's Fund has published a [slideset](#) on their website explaining how the NHS in England is currently structured, including how providers are regulated, how service commissioning is influenced and the flow of money in the NHS.

The full slide set can be downloaded from The King's Fund website.

The evolution of devolution in the NHS

A [report](#) has been published by The Health Foundation, which considers the potential implications of health devolution on health and care outcomes in England, and the best way for policy to evolve.

It draws on analysis of the Devolution Deals agreed to date, relevant literature, and international experience with a focus on four European decentralised health systems.

PHE Strategic Plan

PHE has published its [strategic plan](#), which sets out how PHE plans to achieve its aims over the next four years to protect and improve the public's health and reduce inequalities.

The report also outlines PHE's intended actions over the next year to deliver its core functions and confirms PHE's role in the health and care system, building on evidence, prioritising prevention and supporting local government and the NHS.

It builds on the Department of Health's [Shared Delivery Plan](#), the NHS 5YFV, and [From Evidence into Action](#).

NHS England backs innovative care initiative

NHS England has announced it will be investing £1.75 million in a new, innovative [Shared Lives](#) model.

The family-based initiative aims to support more people being cared for in a home, rather than a hospital, by matching people with special needs to a suitable Shared Lives carer.

People using the scheme may have learning disabilities, dementia, mental health problems or other needs which require long or short term support.

The funding available to CCGs enables:

- people with learning disabilities to move out of medical institutions into ordinary family homes;
- people recovering from strokes and other health crises to receive their step down care in a Shared Lives household;
- live-in mental health support including acute support as an alternative to hospital-based treatment; and
- dementia support including day support and short breaks for family carers.

The Shared Lives initiative is already being commissioned and provided in some areas, but this investment means more areas can implement the service.

Two regions where there is most interest in the model will receive extra support as 'accelerator regions'.

Who Cares? The Future of General Practice

A report has been published by the charity Reform think-tank. The report, [Who Cares? The Future of General Practice](#), analyses the current model of general practice in the NHS in relation to modern day users and how it needs to change to adapt to future needs.

It highlights the need for providers to operate at a larger scale in order to deliver primary care services more effectively. It also considers different approaches to providing primary care services such as utilising a more diverse workforce to deliver these services.

Children and Young People's Mental Health: State of the Nation

An independent think-tank, CentreForum, has published their [first report](#) of their Commission on children and young people's mental health.

The report reveals the findings of a research project on mental health services for younger people and found that services turn away, on average, nearly a quarter (23%) of children and teenagers referred to them by their GPs, teachers or others.

The report highlights common problems and variations in mental health service delivery across the country; it also looks at government policy on children's mental health.

New Intelligence Packs offer early prevention opportunities

The National Cardiovascular Intelligence Network (NCVIN) has launched the second edition of the [CVD Primary Care Intelligence Packs](#).

The packs are intended to be a resource for CCGs and practices to help deliver improved health outcomes in cardiovascular disease by helping to identify key gaps and opportunities in primary care.

There will be a pack for every CCG in England which shows how the CCG is doing and highlights any opportunities for improvement.

The packs have been developed by the NCVIN with support from 30 GPs, nurses and pharmacists in the Primary Care CVD Leadership Forum.

Involving the public in primary care commissioning

NHS England has developed a [framework](#) to help organisations ensure that patient and public involvement is prioritised and maintained throughout their work.

The framework is a guide for primary care commissioners, in NHS England and CCGs, on how to involve patients and the public in the commissioning of primary care services.

It has been co-designed with members of the Working Group for Patient and Public Participation in Primary Care Commissioning.

Feedback from stakeholders has also been taken account in the development of the framework.

Safe sex reminder as antibiotic resistant gonorrhoea investigations continue

PHE has issued a [reminder to the public](#) to practise safe sex, as a response to an increase in antibiotic-resistant gonorrhoea cases.

PHE is monitoring and investigate gonorrhoea cases that are highly resistant to the antibiotic azithromycin. Cases first emerged in the north of England in November 2014. Microbiologists and sexual health doctors in England are being notified that since September 2015 further cases have been confirmed in the West Midlands and in the South of England. The total number of cases confirmed in England between November 2014 and April 2016 is 34.

The current outbreak strain remains sensitive to the other drug used in first line therapy, ceftriaxone, meaning this drug is effective in treating these cases. However, if azithromycin becomes ineffective against gonorrhoea, there is no 'second lock' to prevent or delay the emergence of ceftriaxone resistance, and gonorrhoea may become untreatable.

Three million patients benefit from new innovations in pioneering NHS programme

Three million patients have begun accessing new apps, safety devices and online networks as part of [The NHS Innovation Accelerator \(NIA\)](#) programme.

The programme is based on 17 fellows, each representing an evidence-based innovation have been receiving national support to roll out their technology or service to help in disease prevention, improve service safety and efficiency and increase patient participation.

The technology is aimed at patients, hospitals and GP practices across England; 68 NHS organisations are currently using one or more of the 17 new innovations.

The NIA is a fellowship programme being delivered collaboratively by NHS England, UCLPartners, The Health Foundation and with the Academic Health Science Networks.

Housing, care and health infographics

The King's Fund, as part of its joint learning network on integrated housing, care and health, has published a [slide of infographics](#) to illustrate the connections between housing, social care, health and wellbeing.

General Practice Forward View

The [General Practice Forward View](#) has been published this month (April 2016), setting out a plan for general practice in England.

It has been developed with Health Education England and in discussion with the Royal College of GPs and other GP representatives.

Primary care under strain, says Health Committee

The House of Commons Health Committee has published a report, [Primary Care](#), which sets out the challenges faced by primary care and analyses long-term solutions to drive improvements in patient care.

The report also examines patients' and the workforce's experience of primary care, the new models of care, building the new primary care team and funding.

If you have queries on this PSNC Briefing or you require more information please contact [Zainab Al-Kharsan, Service Development Pharmacist](#).