

Health and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee
NHS Manchester Update: March 2009

This is the monthly update paper produced by NHS Manchester for the Health and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee. NHS Manchester is responsible for ensuring funding for health services is targeted where it is needed the most, that NHS care is of the highest standards and ultimately that local people lead longer, healthier lives. The update covers a range of topics that may be of interest to the Committee.

1. World Class Commissioning update

NHS Manchester has published the results of its World Class Commissioning (WCC) assurance review, the outcome of a major external assessment against new national standards for the commissioning of NHS services. The assessment took place in November 2008 and was part of the first England-wide analysis of primary care trusts' progress on WCC.

The Department of Health introduced WCC as a groundbreaking approach to ensure local services are tailored to local needs, while building on best practice from healthcare systems in this country and around the world. The report includes scores awarded to NHS Manchester for various aspects of performance that contribute to our effectiveness as a commissioner. Because it is such an ambitious programme, PCTs were not expected to score highly in these rankings in the first year but to demonstrate improvement over the next three to five years.

Overall the report is encouraging, describing NHS Manchester as 'an ambitious and dynamic organisation which has made significant steps towards improvement, particularly in the last twelve months'. Importantly, it also includes a number of recommendations as to how further improvements can be achieved and these will become a key focus of our development as an organisation.

One important element of the assessment was analysis of our five-year Commissioning Strategic Plan, on which we have received detailed feedback from the assessment panel. There are some specific comments that must now be reflected in a revision of this document, which will be formally signed off by NHS North West at the end of March. The process of amending the document is underway and the new edition will be circulated to stakeholders and made publicly available in April.

We would like to thank Members who contributed to the WCC assessment process and to highlight the encouraging fact assessors identified NHS Manchester's partnership with the city council as a particular strength. To view the report on NHS Manchester's progress towards WCC, please click here:

[http://www.manchester.nhs.uk/document_uploads/Commissioning/Manchester Panel_Report_FINAL.pdf](http://www.manchester.nhs.uk/document_uploads/Commissioning/Manchester_Panel_Report_FINAL.pdf)

2 Changes to regulation of health and social care in 2009-10

Further to the separate paper regarding compliance with the national Standards for Better Health, from April there will be a change in the way NHS organisations are regulated. Currently the Standards for Better Health are a key part of the evidence used by the Healthcare Commission to provide assurance about the quality and safety of local services, resulting in the publication of ratings for each NHS organisation in the Annual Health Check. From 1 April 2009 the Healthcare Commission, along with the Commission for Social Care Inspection and the Mental Health Act Commission, will be succeeded by a single new body called the Care Quality Commission (CQC). As a result, the CQC will be responsible for publishing the outcome of the Annual Health Checks for 2008-9.

The CQC, which was established as a legal entity last October, has stated that 2009-10 will be a year of transition in the way organisations are assessed. There will be separate approaches to the assessment of commissioning organisations and service providers. Primary care trusts and adult social care departments will continue to be separately assessed on commissioning in 2009-10, but the CQC will also introduce a new framework spanning health and social care commissioning with a focus on the quality of care. Meanwhile a new CQC review will replace the Annual Health Check for service providers, who will continue to be measured against the Standards for Better Health in 2009-10 and, for the first time, be required to register under the Health and Social Care Act 2008.

3 Manchester pilots vascular checks campaign

NHS Manchester and the Joint Health Unit are working together to provide a vascular check pilot programme, offering free health checks at 35 local pharmacies. The pilot runs until 10 April and is open to all Manchester residents aged between 40 and 74. The checks assess risk of vascular disease including heart disease, stroke, diabetes and kidney disease.

Vascular disease is one of the main contributors to the comparatively short life expectancy of people in Manchester. The checks will help to identify early signs of illness so that action can be taken at early stage. Prevention and early diagnosis of major disease through programmes like this one will be central to NHS Manchester's approach to reducing health inequalities over the next five years. The vascular checks initiative is due to roll out nationally later in the year.

4. Transfer of services from Booth Hall Children's Hospital

Preparations are continuing for the transfer of all services currently based at Booth Hall Children's Hospital in north Manchester. A number of the services currently provided at the site, including Accident and Emergency and a range of outpatient services, will transfer to new facilities at North Manchester General Hospital when the Booth Hall site closes this summer. Meanwhile many of the services including more specialist care will move to the new children's hospital in central Manchester, which opens in June.

In addition to these changes, appropriate services will increasingly be delivered in health centres and other community settings to provide more convenient access for families. The improvements are part of a multi-million pound investment in the future of children's health services in Manchester. Information about the changes will be

publicised through the media and public engagement events over the coming months, before services transfer from Booth Hall during June and July.

5. Demand on urgent care services

As Members may be aware, the cold weather this winter has contributed to unusually high demand on NHS services, both in Manchester and elsewhere across the country. There has been an increase in attendances across the healthcare system, from GP practices to Accident and Emergency departments, since the first cold spell in November.

The NHS routinely prepares for a seasonal increase in activity and these plans are being implemented to ensure patients receive fast access to appropriate treatment. Regular liaison is taking place between NHS Manchester, practice based commissioners, acute trusts and other stakeholders to closely monitor the situation and respond to emerging issues. Specific actions taken to cater for demand on local services include arranging more intermediate care beds and operating longer hours at some NHS walk-in centres. Meanwhile information is being promoted to the public to encourage awareness of the full range of NHS services and how to access them.

6. NHS Manchester co-hosts national launch on patient safety

NHS Manchester is working in partnership with the National Patient Safety Agency to launch a new national framework in March, aimed at reducing the number of incidents that put patients' safety at risk. The framework builds on existing policies by setting out guidance for primary care trusts on so-called 'Never Events' - serious incidents that are considered to be largely preventable if available measures are put in place. Tackling Never Events is identified in our Commissioning Strategic Plan as an important element of ensuring local services operate to high standards and we are pleased to be able to co-host the launch of the new framework.

Updates and further information on most of the issues covered here will be brought to future meetings of the Health and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee. However, if you would like further information about any of the items covered here, please contact:

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APPENDIX

Forward Plan

The Forward Plan is an overview of forthcoming milestones for NHS Manchester.

Timescale	Issue	Summary
Imminent	Complete procurement process for three new GP practice contracts	Three contracts to run new GP services have been out to tender as part of a national programme to address 'under-doctored' areas.
Imminent	Complete procurement process for new GP-led health centre	A contract to run a new GP-led health centre has been out to tender as part of a national programme to establish one such centre in each PCT area.
April 2009	Standards for Better Health declaration	Self-declaration of performance against the Standards for Better Health submitted.
April 2009	New GP Out-of-Hours arrangements commence	GTDHarmoni commences operation of improved out-of-hours GP service for all Manchester patients.
June-July 2009	Relocation of all services from Booth Hall Children's Hospital to new facilities	Services at Booth Hall Children's Hospital will relocate, with the most specialist services transferring to the new children's hospital in central Manchester and other services including outpatients and Accident and Emergency transferring to North Manchester General Hospital.