

NHS Rotherham Clinical Commissioning Group

Primary Care Sub-Group – 28 January 2020

Primary Care Committee - 12 February 2020

GP capacity annual review

Lead Executive:	Chris Edwards, Chief Officer
Lead Officer:	Jacqui Tuffnell, Head of Commissioning
Lead GP:	Dr Avanthi Gunasekera, SCE Lead for Primary Care

Purpose:

The purpose of this paper is to provide assurance in relation to the increasing capacity being provided in general practice to meet the growing demand.

Background:

A key expectation of NHS England in the GP Forward View and the Long term plan is to improve access in general practice. RCCG has been reporting total general practice appointment numbers since 2016. The quality contract identifies specific requirements for practices to meet in relation to access, in particular these are 24 hours for an urgent appointment and 5 working days for a routine appointment.

To support the working population and those who have commitments during 'core hours', there are now 4 'hubs' open each Saturday providing routine and urgent appointments for Rotherham population. The hubs at Broom Lane and Rotherham Foundation Trust also provide Monday-Friday and Sunday extended access. (Note the TRFT hub only opened on 17 January 2020). We have also provided winter sustainability funding to the Primary Care Networks (PCN) this year to increase capacity for their PCN footprint.

Like most other areas, Rotherham practices are struggling with demand for their services. All practices in Rotherham have undertaken a programme 'productive general practice' which looks at areas within the practice which could be amended or improved to release capacity/improve systems. RCCG has also supported the roll-out of Physio First for all practices which releases capacity within practices. In addition to this, the additional roles for primary care networks identified within the Long Term Plan (Investment and Evolution) and all 6 networks now have Clinical Pharmacist and Social Prescribing link worker roles in place.

Rotherham also has the highest proportion of GPs and Practice Nurses in the age bracket 55-59 with insufficient numbers of GPs and nurses coming through to fully backfill. Rotherham CCG is therefore working with NHSE and HEE on initiatives to support recruitment and retention. These include increased GP training places across Rotherham, VTS nurse scheme (preceptorship for newly qualified nurses) and facilitating support programmes for the new roles via the workforce hub.

Overall, the report identifies that demand is continuing to rise for general practice and it is essential that we enable practices to be able to respond to this demand and not impact wider services.

Primary Care Delegation Responsibility:

Does this paper relate to Rotherham CCG or delegated business?

Rotherham CCG	
Delegated	
Both Rotherham CCG and delegated	X

Please indicate which area of delegated responsibility this paper covers:

Commissioning, procurement and management of GMS,PMS and APMS contracts including taking contractual action	
Newly designed enhanced services (including DES)	
Local incentive schemes	
Discretionary payments	
Commissioning urgent care for out of area registered patients	
Planning Primary medical care services (PMCS)	X
Managing practices with CQC / quality concerns	
Decisions on premise cost directions	
Planning the commissioning of PMCS	
Manage the delegated allocation for commissioning of PMCS	
Assurance to the governing body on the quality and safety of PMCS	

Analysis of key issues and of risks

A number of practices are indicating that they are not providing sufficient capacity due to availability of staffing. This potentially indicates that these practices are not consistently delivering the quality contract requirements for access and patients are having difficulty accessing appointments. We will review GP survey results for these practices to ensure that access is not deteriorating. It is also proposed as part of the quality contract submission to undertake a further deep dive to ensure there is sufficient capacity in these practices for their population.

High Street and Woodstock Bower have advised that they have made changes to their systems to manage patients more cohesively requiring less visits which will impact their appointment numbers. This will also be reviewed to see if this is an area of good practice, improving patient care to ensure this information is shared more widely to support other practices.

Patient, Public and Stakeholder Involvement:

Not applicable.

Equality Impact:

Not applicable.

Financial Implications:

Not applicable.

Human Resource Implications:

Not applicable.

Procurement Advice:

Not applicable.

Data Protection Impact Assessment:

Not applicable.

Approval history:

Primary care sub-group 28 January 2020
--

Recommendations:

It is recommended that the committee note the increased demand in general practice and approve the action proposed to undertake a 'deep dive' related to the practices with staffing issues and providing appointments in alternative ways.

Paper is for Approval
