

Primary care co-commissioning submission and approval process for 2015/16

1. Co-commissioning of primary medical services (general practice services) was introduced in April 2015.
2. Giving CCGs greater say over NHS England's primary care commissioning responsibilities is part of the wider strategy to support the development of "place-based" commissioning and join up care pathways. It is a critical step towards enabling the new models of care set out in the *NHS Five Year Forward View*, on the assumption that integrated commissioning is a key enabler of integrated provision.
3. Following a ten month policy and initiation programme jointly led by NHS England and CCGs, on 1 April 2015, 63 CCGs assumed delegated responsibility for the commissioning of general practice services and 86 CCGs took forward joint commissioning arrangements with NHS England.
4. The information below sets out the key dates and the application process for those CCGs who wish to apply in 2015/16 to assume new delegated and joint commissioning arrangements.
5. NHS England will provide support to all CCGs to take forward the co-commissioning arrangement of their choice (except in cases where the assurance process has raised significant concerns in respect of current capacity and capability to enter into a delegated commissioning arrangement).
6. If you have any queries, please contact your regional team in the first instance. If your enquiry is not resolved, queries can also be emailed to the national team at: england.co-commissioning@nhs.net

Future opportunities to implement joint arrangements

7. There will be two further opportunities this year for CCGs to implement new joint commissioning arrangements with NHS England.

"Go live" implementation Dates	
1 July 2015	For CCGs who applied to assume joint arrangements in 2014/15 where it was decided to defer or postpone implementation to 1 July 2015.
1 October 2015	Open to CCGs not currently with joint/delegated

	arrangements
1 January 2016	Open to all CCGs not currently with joint/delegated arrangements
1 April 2016	Open to all CCGs

8. CCGs will not be required to formally submit an application nationally for joint commissioning arrangements and should instead discuss the requirements with their local NHS England team in the region. Full details of these requirements will be made available shortly.
9. All agreements and documentation must be in place by the agreed go-live date. CCGs should liaise with local NHS England teams to give advance notice of submitting their application and to confirm the date of submission.
10. Regions will continue to support submissions from all CCGs who have the greater involvement co-commissioning model in place throughout 2015/16 (as per the dates above), except in cases where the assurance process has raised significant concerns in respect of current capacity and capability to enter into joint commissioning arrangements.
11. Regions will work with CCGs who wish to implement joint arrangements to have all the necessary pre-requisites in place by the implementation date (to include ToR, constitution amendment, governance structure, membership and governing body approval). Full details of these requirements will be made available shortly.

Future opportunities to implement delegated commissioning arrangements

12. CCGs who do not currently have delegated arrangements in place can apply to assume delegated responsibility from 1 April 2016.
13. The submission template with list of requirements and supporting information will be made available here shortly.
14. CCGs will need to submit their proposal by midday **Friday 2 October 2015** both to england.co-commissioning@nhs.net and to their local NHS England team.
15. Regions will work with CCGs prior to submission to ensure the submissions provide all the necessary information and documentation. The paperwork required will be reviewed to simplify the process.
16. As during the 2014/15 process, regional panels will meet to review the proposals and make recommendations to a national panel on which proposals to take forward.

17. National moderation will be provided by the Primary Care Oversight Group (PCOG), week commencing 19 October 2015.

18. PCOG will make recommendations to an Executive Scrutiny Group week ending **6th November 2015** and CCGs will then be notified of the outcome of their application.

19. A summary of the key points in the approvals process can be found below:

