

**BOARD PAPER - NHS ENGLAND**

**Title:** Commissioning Support Committee

**Clearance:**

Dame Moira Gibb, Chair of the Commissioning Support Committee

Rosamond Roughton, National Director: Commissioning Development

**Purpose of paper:**

- To provide an update on discussions and actions at the November Commissioning Support Committee

**Key issues and recommendations:**

The Committee has:

- overseen the assurance process for Commissioning Support Units (CSUs) and continues to keep oversight of their performance through a balanced scorecard; and
- guided the development of the strategy for the development of the market for commissioning support, published on 12 June, to ensure that all commissioners get access to high quality, affordable support.

**Actions required by Board Members:**

- The Board is asked to note the outcome of discussions and next steps from the November Commissioning Support Committee.

## Commissioning Support Committee

### Context

1. The Commissioning support committee has two key responsibilities:
  - To oversee the **assurance** of Commissioning Support Units (CSUs), ensuring that they are fit for purpose and financially viable
  - To oversee the **development** of CSUs, ensuring that they continuously improve in their ability to deliver high quality, cost effective services, and develop independence in line with the Board's market strategy for all commissioning support services and its strategy for moving CSUs to autonomous forms.

### Summary of November discussions

- Members supported the plans to provide some financial support to CSUs, coupled with the reinvestment of their margins, to enable CSUs to drive down costs for their customers, but agreed that it was important that CSUs continue to make efforts to drive up the quality of their offer alongside the cost reduction programme. Members supported the proposal to progress as soon as possible with a single national staff consultation.
- A brief update was provided on the work recently commissioned by NHS England to consider its own approach to sourcing external commissioning support, including exploring where further outsourcing can drive greater efficiencies and secure access to better expertise and capability. A further update will be provided in 2014.
- A short market analysis was presented which explored where the market is now and how it might develop over future years. An update was provided on the work to develop the consultation for moving CSUs to more autonomous forms, including the shortlist of options.
- Members considered the latest dashboard report that reviews the performance of CSUs. Headline messages included:
  - CSUs continue to secure new business (now over £28m in the first 6 months);
  - CSUs are continuing to work with each other and other partners to improve their offer to customers and prepare to meet the lead provider framework criteria;
  - the transition of services in Surrey and Sussex is complete; and
  - a process is in place to secure a new host for Anglia CSU.
- An update was provided on the work planned to benchmark CSU processes and financial performance along with an update on the financial performance of CSUs to month 7 and the forecast outturn for 2013/2014.

**Actions required by Board Members:**

2. The Board is asked to note the outcome of discussions and next steps from the November Commissioning Support Committee.

**Dame Moira Gibb, Chair of the Commissioning Support Committee**

**Rosamond Roughton, National Director: Commissioning Development**

**December 2013**