

BOARD PAPER - NHS ENGLAND

Title: Directly Commissioned Services committee

Clearance:

Professor Sir Malcolm Grant, Chair of the Directly Commissioned Services committee

Dame Barbara Hakin, Deputy Chief Executive and Chief Operating Officer

Purpose of paper:

To provide an update on discussions and actions following the meeting of the Directly Commissioned Services committee held on 12 November 2013.

Key issues and recommendations:

The committee:

- accepted the revised terms of reference;
- received updates from the directly commissioned services work streams; and,
- noted and took assurances regarding actions being taken to address financial issues with regard to specialised commissioning.

Actions required by Board Members:

The Board is asked to note the outcome of discussions and next steps from the Directly Commissioned Services committee in November 2013.

Directly Commissioned Services committee

Summary of Committee Discussions

1. The committee held its second meeting on 12 November 2013.
2. The committee accepted the revised terms of reference.
3. Members accepted the recommendations of the Clinical Priorities Advisory Group (CPAG). It was agreed that the Chair and Chief Operating Officer should further review the proposed terms of reference for CPAG.
4. Members noted and endorsed proposals for negotiating improvements in to the General Dental Services (GDS) contracts and Personal Dental Services (PDS) agreements for 2014/15.
5. Members agreed that there should be regular updates to the Committee with regard to the Public Health section 7a agreement.
6. The committee received a report highlighting progress, key issues and risks for each of the five areas of direct commissioning (primary care, specialised services, public health, health and justice and armed forces and their families). The committee noted that in future it would receive a report on the Primary Care Services Programme on behalf of the Board.
7. The Committee received a detailed report on specialised services and had an in depth discussion on the issues and risk in order to give the Board assurance that the necessary action is being taken.
8. For the first time in England, there are national standards for specialised services. These have been produced by clinicians with patient and public involvement. An assessment has been made of provider compliance with the standards. Commissioning Intentions for 2014/15 have recently been published.
9. There are significant challenges and risks in establishing the new commissioning arrangements for specialised services that relate to the complexity of the budget setting process, the different commissioning arrangements and the introduction of consistent methods of applying information rules and validating contract information.
10. Members discussed the issues and mitigating actions and understood that the recommendations of the report had been fully endorsed by the Operations Executive and the detailed delivery plan will be closely monitored. Given the

extent of the challenge and risk in this area the Committee will continue on behalf of the Board to monitor progress very closely.

Actions required by Board Members

11. The Board is asked to note the outcome of discussions and next steps from the Directly Commissioned Services committee in November 2013.

Professor Sir Malcolm Grant
Chair, Directly Commissioned Services Committee
November 2013