

BOARD PAPER - NHS ENGLAND

Title: CCG Assurance and Development Committee

Clearance: Lord Victor Adebawale, Chair of the CCG Assurance and Development Committee

Purpose of paper:

To provide an update on discussions and actions following the CCG Assurance and Development Committee held in October 2014.

Key issues and recommendations:

The committee:

- approved the lifting of conditions on 3 London CCGs.
- noted actions on Accountable Officer appointments, legal and constitutional issues and non-statutory actions.
- noted the content of the Co-commissioning of primary care services paper.
- received and discussed a paper on the future CCG assurance process for 2015-16.

Actions required by Board Members:

The Board is asked to note the outcome of discussions and next steps from the CCG Assurance and Development Committee held in October 2014.

CCG assurance and development committee

Summary of committee discussions

1. The committee ratified the minutes of the previous meetings held in May (which can be found at [CCG authorisation and assurance minutes](#)) and July 2014 (which can be found at [CCG authorisation and assurance minutes](#)). These minutes are attached
2. **Quarter 1 CCG Assurance Summary**
210 CCGs were rated as assured across the assurance framework. Of these 142 CCGs were rated as 'assured with support' for at least one of the assurance domains. This represented 67 per cent of CCGs across England requiring support on one or more matters. There is currently one CCG which has intervention in place.
3. **CCG conditions and directions**
It was recommended that 3 CCGs with legal directions in place had their conditions removed at the end of the quarter. The committee noted the content of the paper and approved the lifting of conditions for NHS Harrow CCG, NHS Hillingdon CCG and NHS Redbridge CCG.
4. **Overview of legal and constitutional issues**
Members of the committee noted actions on Accountable Officer appointments, legal and constitutional issues and non-statutory actions. A legislative reform order (LRO) has been passed by parliament which allowed CCGs to form joint committees with two or more CCGs and/or NHS England.
5. It was noted that an interim Accountable Officer would remain in post at NHS Wirral CCG until November, by when it was expected that the CCG would have developed a new constitution.
6. **Co-commissioning of primary care services**
Members of the committee were asked to note three issues in relation to the introduction of co-commissioning:
 - Local flexibilities : there will need to be an agreement on the level of assurance required. There may be a requirement to have an alternative to the Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF)
 - Conflicts of interest : Existing governance arrangements may need to be strengthened. The committee discussed the possibility of Healthwatch taking a more prominent role, and strengthening the involvement of the British Medical Association(BMA) and the Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP)
 - Resourcing requirements for the new arrangements
7. **The future assurance process – CCG Assurance 2015 - 2016**
The Committee received a paper setting out a proposal for the 2015-16 CCG assurance framework. The committee discussed the options and agreed that Assurance meetings would not take place for CCGs that were consistently assessed as fully assured. A new category of Special Measures would be introduced for those CCGs that required the highest level of support. The Board will receive a separate paper on this matter at the November Board meeting in private session.
8. The Board is asked to note the outcome of discussions and next steps from the CCG Assurance and Development Committee held in October 2014.

Lord Victor Adebawale
Non-Executive Director