

BOARD PAPER - NHS ENGLAND

Title: Report of the Commissioning Committee
From: David Roberts, Chair of the Commissioning Committee
Purpose of Paper: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• This paper contains an update on the activities of the Committee for the period from 24 June to 7 July 2015 and highlights any issues and decisions of which the Board should be aware. The Committee met once during this period.
The Board is invited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Note the work undertaken by the Commissioning Committee at its meeting on 24 June 2015.

NHS England Board – 23 July 2015

REPORT TO THE BOARD FROM: Commissioning Committee

COMMITTEE CHAIR: David Roberts, Non-Executive Director

DATE OF COMMITTEE MEETING: 24 June 2015

1. This paper contains an update on the activities of the Commissioning Committee for the period from 24 June 2015 to 7 July 2015 and highlights any issues and decisions that the Board should be aware of. The Committee met once during this period.
2. The minutes of the 27 May 2015 meeting were approved by the Committee.
3. The key issues addressed at the 24 June 2015 Commissioning Committee meeting were:

Emerging Review Themes: Cancer

4. The Committee received an update on the process undertaken by the Cancer Taskforce and their emerging findings, noting the effective consultation and engagement that had been conducted. The Committee considered the links between Taskforce recommendations and New Models of Care, the need to balance delivery of immediate priorities with implementing the long term strategy at national and local levels, and the relationship between developing the commissioning system and delivering world class cancer care.

Emerging Review Themes: Mental Health

5. The Committee were updated on the progress made by the Mental Health Taskforce. Emergent findings suggest that a large number of respondents to the Taskforce's consultation have focused on shortcomings in three areas: attitudes, access and integration. The Committee noted the importance of the interface between access to mental health services and other public services, and the potential for collaborative commissioning to drive improvements in service provision. The Committee also discussed the need to address wider investment prioritisation and noted the similar difficulties faced by mental health and learning disability services in implementing improvement strategies.
6. The Committee asked for further information on the key barriers to implementing improvement strategies in the learning disability sector to be presented at a future meeting

Position paper: What does 'Best in Class' look like for Clinical Commissioning?

7. The Committee considered what 'best in class' looks like for clinical commissioning- this is one of the Commissioning Strategy workstreams. Members of the Committee noted the challenges in defining single commissioning footprints and methods for a diverse bundle of services. The Committee highlighted the need to ensure that recommendations from the 'best in class' work are grounded in local decision making processes and to identify the core capabilities required for commissioners to deliver these. The Committee also discussed the importance of considering what commissioners of the future will - and should - be doing and how NHS England can support them, as well as the role of Commissioning Support Services.
8. The Committee asked for a case study of commissioning in the South West of England to be presented at a future meeting.

New Models of Care – Process for the Support Programme

9. An update on the details and process of the New Models of Care support programme, due to launch in July, was given to the Committee. The Committee noted progress and areas for development.

10. The Committee asked for the final support programme package to be shared with members when it is available.

Greater Manchester Agreement

11. Progress in establishing the Greater Manchester agreement was presented to the Committee. In discussion, members noted the strong progress made in developing partnerships across national bodies to deliver the Greater Manchester agreement, and the emerging proposals for CSU operations in Greater Manchester. The Committee also noted the potential implications of the Devolution Bill for the Greater Manchester agreement and more widely, and the need to assess its implications for NHS England's accountability and assurance processes.

Financial Management Strategy

12. The Committee considered a proposal for the handover of oversight of financial planning and performance to the Commissioning Committee from October 2015, as first discussed at the Committee meeting of 28 January 2015. The proposal was approved by members of the Commissioning Committee.

Directly Commissioned Services: Summary Corporate Report

13. The quarterly direct commissioning report was presented to the Committee. The report included an update on the Primary Care Infrastructure Fund and a formal notification of variation to the Section 7A agreement. The Committee approved the proposal that delegated approval for agreement of the 16/17 GP contract be conferred upon the Chief Executive, the National Director: Commissioning Operations, the Chief Financial Officer and the NHS England Chair. The Committee also noted the required variation to the 2015/16 Section 7A Agreement to provide for urgent vaccinations for teenagers against meningococcal group W (MenW).

Management Performance

14. The Committee discussed the type and extent of management information that members would wish to see drawn from a range of sources, using both qualitative and quantitative information to provide an holistic view of the performance of the health service.

Any Other Business

15. The Medical Directorate will present an item on the National Quality Board at a future Commissioning Committee meeting.
16. Committee meetings are to be extended by 30 minutes from September 2015 onwards and an alternative date will be sought for the October 2015 meeting. The Secretariat will ensure that future meetings are scheduled outside of school half term breaks.

Author: David Roberts, Chairman – Commissioning Committee

Date: July 2015