Re: Expressions of interest to be first wave sites for the NHS Diabetes Prevention Programme

Dear everyone

We wanted to write to you personally to provide an update on this important initiative led collaboratively by Public Health England, NHS England and Diabetes UK and to draw your attention to the call for expressions of interest, from local partnerships, in becoming first wave sites for the programme.

The current position

As you will be well aware there are an estimated 3.2 million people in England with diabetes, of which 2.8 million have been diagnosed. We estimate that a further five million people in England are at high risk of Type 2 diabetes, and by 2030 more than four million people in England will have the disease. Diabetes accounts for nearly £10 billion of NHS spend in the UK every year, with 80% spent on managing complications. The health and financial burdens of this disease are high and this will continue to grow unless we do more to prevent it.

90% of people with diabetes have Type 2, and we know that the majority of these cases could be prevented or delayed. Randomised control trials have shown 30-60 per cent reductions in incidence of Type 2 diabetes, over three years, in adults at high risk who received intensive behavioural interventions (compared to control groups).

The NHS Diabetes Prevention Programme (NHS DPP)

The NHS ‘Five Year Forward View’ and Public Health England’s ‘Evidence into Action’ set out a joint ambition, “to be the first country to implement at scale a national evidence-based diabetes prevention programme”.

The NHS Diabetes Prevention Programme will deliver at scale provision of evidence based lifestyle change programmes, based on proven UK and international models focused on lowering weight, increasing physical activity and improving diet in those individuals who are identified at high risk of developing Type 2 diabetes.
In March 2015 we selected seven demonstrator sites to collaborate with us on the co-design, implementation and evaluation of evidence based approaches to Type 2 diabetes prevention.

We are also issuing a Consultation Guide on NHS England’s website (https://www.engage.england.nhs.uk/consultation/non-diabetic-hyperglycaemia). We are seeking comments on our approach to procuring behaviour change interventions from both those who are interested in providing the services and from local health economies in which the procured services will be delivered.

**Call for expressions of interest in becoming first wave sites for the NHS Diabetes Prevention Programme (NHS DPP)**

The call for expressions of interest is for CCG and Local Authority partnerships to be first wave implementers of the national programme. This will involve partnering with us, and our contracted service providers, to deliver behaviour change interventions to prevent Type 2 diabetes in your locality. We are particularly interested in expressions of interest covering geographies greater than individual CCGs, and would encourage collaborative expressions of interest between CCGs and Local Authorities. We propose to procure lead providers to deliver lifestyle intervention programmes in each region. The services will be directly commissioned and funded by NHS England and local partners will contribute through the establishment of case identification and referral systems, and/or as sub-contractors delivering programmes in your local area.

In this first phase we are seeking to facilitate partnerships between NHS DPP providers and local partners which have the capability to implement the programme at pace. Those CCGs/LAs chosen for the first wave will be the areas with the infrastructure to case find and refer people at high risk of Type 2 diabetes into the intensive lifestyle intervention programme, arrangements in place to ensure smooth data flows, and excellent partnerships with GP practices to ensure ongoing care of those who have been through the programme.

To assist identification of the most appropriate sites with which to partner in this first wave of national roll out, we are therefore asking you to complete a short expression of interest (see annex) setting out the case for why your organisations should become first wave sites, detailing your existing pathways, service provision and organisational/partnership readiness to work with the providers we intend to procure. We would be grateful if you would complete this form and return it to
diabetesprevention@phe.gov.uk by 18th September 2015. We realise these timescales are demanding, particularly at this time of year, but we want to align identification of potential partners with the timetable for the procurement in 2015/16.

As part of the procurement process the information you provide will be shared with short-listed providers to help them to understand the potential to partner with you and the volume of referrals that local organisations are likely to be able to generate. As part of this process we may also request that you have conversations with providers looking to bid to run services within your area. We are currently exploring how NHS England regions, Public Health England Centres and Clinical Networks may be able to support this process and the first wave of implementation.

Further information can be sought from the Programme Management Team through diabetesprevention@phe.gov.uk.

With best wishes

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