NHS England introduced a new CCG improvement and assessment framework in 2016/17, fully aligned to the Five Year Forward View and NHS planning guidance. This brings together a range of key indicators, enabling NHS England and CCGs to work together, using the indicators to drive improvement for patients.

There are national ambitions for transformation in a number of vital clinical priorities, including Diabetes. Each priority area has a number of indicators in the framework and the areas are assessed by independent panels, with a separate, clear rating. These ratings are published on MyNHS (links). Each area has its own support programme for CCGs, which may already be in place or is being introduced in stages.

The Diabetes support offer forms part of a wider diabetes treatment programme focussed on:

1. Improving the achievement of the NICE recommended treatment targets (HbA1c, cholesterol and blood pressure) and driving down variation between CCGs
2. Improving uptake of structured education
3. Reducing amputations by improving the timeliness of referrals from primary care to a multi-disciplinary foot team for people with diabetic foot disease; and
4. Reducing lengths of stay for diabetic inpatients

The first stage of the programme has been to identify diabetes leads in each region who will work with regional team members, clinical networks and CCGs to develop a co-ordinated approach to improvement.

Optimal diabetes pathways are also in development for use by Right Care, regional teams and clinical networks in improvement work with CCGs.

Further details will be given later in 2016 on the additional support that will be available for the next stages of the programme.