

Luton Clinical Commissioning Group – Update

(Report by Dr Anthea Robinson, Liz Cox, Luton CCG)

Mental Health, Community Health and Intermediate Care Services

Since our major procurement exercise last year, there has been a lot of activity with East London NHS Foundation Trust (ELFT) to prepare for them taking over from South Essex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust (SEPT), as the new provider of mental health services for both adults and children in Luton. This has included the transfer of SEPT staff and premises to ELFT for the services previously provided by SEPT for Luton. Through this period, the CCG has continued to work with the Mental Health Reference Group made up of members of the public, which was established for the procurement, to keep them informed of progress and to ensure continued public and patient input into ELFT as the new provider from 1 April 2015. ELFT have given a commitment to work with patients and public in Luton to continue to improve and develop services focussed on the needs of local people.

Through the procurement exercise last year, the CCG was also seeking to establish a new community physical health service for adults and children. The result of this exercise was that Cambridgeshire Community Services NHS Trust (CCS) will continue for two years as the provider in Luton. This Autumn the CCG will consider options for future service development or procurement in the future, for the period beyond April 2017.

The procurement also identified Virgin Care as the successful bidder for our Intermediate Care Service, which was previously provided by CCS. Handover of this service was successful and Virgin Care continues to make improvements to this service for its patients.

Four GP Practice Contracts Consultation

NHS England, with the CCG, will be undertaking a Public Consultation on the future of four GP practices in Luton this Autumn, as their contracts are coming to an end and there are a number of options available to improve the availability and quality of GP services available for their patients. These options will be set out in the consultation. The practices involved in this are:

1. Town Centre Practice
2. Moakes Medical Centre
3. Whipperley Medical Centre
4. Sundon Park Health Centre

Urgent Care Strategy

In the coming year we will be implementing elements of our Urgent Care Strategy, which will include improving and simplifying the way in which people in Luton gain

access to urgent medical help when they need it. To this end, we will soon be seeking your views on what elements of the current services have worked well for you and also what you think could be improved. If you wish to share your views now, you can do so by emailing contactus@lutonccg.nhs.uk – please mark your email as Urgent Care feedback.

Financial Challenge

The most significant challenge for the CCG in the year ahead is managing the financial deficit, which is currently in excess of £20 million. Much work is being undertaken to address the shortfall, which has been caused by a number of different factors; high demand on services at the L&D Hospital, historical under-funding of health for the people of Luton, over spend in some areas such as mental health. Concise action plans are in place to bring Luton CCG finances back on track. At present we will spend within our means in 2016/17 and over the following two years, pay back the deficit we have built up. This means that if we continue to achieve our current financial plans we will report a financial surplus by the end of 2018/19.

Better Care Teams – Frail & Elderly

Patients in two of the four Clusters* within Luton are already benefiting from a new way that their care is planned through Better Care Teams. The Better Care Teams support GPs to focus on more proactive care and support for frail and elderly patients with the remaining two clusters due to roll-out this approach soon. The aim of this approach is, through Care Co-ordinators, a multi-disciplinary team keep frail and elderly patients well and at home, including if this is a care or nursing home, reducing the need for hospital admission leading to longer, healthier and more independent lives. We will provide more information of the implementation of this new approach as it progresses

(*The GP practices in Luton are arranged into four clusters to enable peer support and joint working. The main aim of the clusters is to reduce variation in the quality of care and to build better capacity and capability for practices. Some community health and social care services are organised around the Clusters)