

VIA EMAIL ONLY



London Regional Office
Southside
105 Victoria Street
London, SW1E 6QT

South West London
Clinical Chairs

22nd February 2016

Dear Colleagues,

RE: Delegated Primary Care Commissioning in South West London

I am writing following my attendance at the Joint Committee meeting on the 4th February. Firstly, thank you for inviting me to contribute, I found it useful and insightful and hope the discussion helped to clarify some of the benefits of delegated Primary Care Commissioning. This letter is to outline the points discussed, and myself and the team are available to discuss further if you would like.

The potential benefits of delegated Primary Care have been outlined in several forums; however I believe there are three main benefits which are applicable to all CCGs:

1. Greater Control and Enhanced Delivery

By enabling CCGs to take full control of decision making related to Primary Medical Services, the CCG will be better empowered to deliver the strategic objectives and other priorities most pertinent to the local population.

Although NHS England is committed to supporting CCGs in delivering their objectives, CCGs which have taken on delegated commissioning have noted that it has supported:

- Development of new models of care, as having a single accountable provider for a defined population requires a joined up local commissioning model, where budgets can be pooled and a single contract agreed
- Local incentive schemes that are aligned with CCGs' strategic intentions.
- Outcomes based commissioning.
- GP federation arrangements, as well as changes to the organisation of community based services.

2. More financial flexibility

As part of delegation, CCGs will receive the Primary Medical services budget as part of their allocation. This allows for greater financial clarity and flexibility

between budgets, for example CCGs will be more easily able to invest more money into Primary Care, or to protect the current level of investment by, for example achieving any primary care QIPP requirement through CCG's total allocation.

The requirement to deliver a QIPP associated with the Primary Care allocation however, is proposed to be based on need rather than an imposed target. However where there is a gap between allocation and costs, all CCGs (regardless of level of delegation) will need to find those costs (although not necessarily in Primary Care)¹. Therefore the 'risk' associated with QIPP delivery is not delegation dependant.

All CCGs will be given access to their Primary Care budgets, with Level 1 and 2 CCGs applying to or jointly agreeing with NHS England to access it. There will therefore be transparency about the money in the Primary Care allocation, for CCGs at all levels of delegation.

The financial risks associated with delegation have also been well rehearsed, but NHS England continues to be committed to reasonable support of the CCGs as the financial and operational responsibilities transition, and have been co-developing a letter to accompany the delegation agreement to make these collaborative arrangements clear.

3. Direction of travel

The other benefit with moving to delegated Primary Care commissioning, is that it is likely all CCGs will take on this model in the next year or so, and being part of the second wave allows CCGs to benefit from lessons learnt from the front runners, but also be recognised for taking hold of an opportunity considered strategically important by National.

By the majority of South West London CCGs moving to delegated Primary Care arrangements, these CCGs will be able to take hold of and embed the benefits of this process ahead of many other areas of the country, as well as potentially help to shape the evolution of how it works in practice.

Conclusion

I appreciate there is risk and concern regarding taking on these new responsibilities, but myself and both my Transformation and Commissioning teams are keen to ensure all CCGs are best and most effectively supported to deliver the best possible Primary Care services for their population. We believe delegation is an important enabler to support this, and that CCGs will benefit from taking this forward step.

¹ This is all subject to sign off of the Business Rules paper which will be submitted for London Region Executive Team, 23rd February 2016.

If you would like to discuss this further, please contact myself or one of the team and we would be happy to make time.

Yours sincerely,



Liz Wise

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