

PCM Newsletter

May 2014

We have made significant progress towards our goal of becoming a stable, successful organisation since the last newsletter. We have secured funding for our extended access project until the end of March 2015 which gives us an income to continue to function while we continue to work on other projects. This is a huge step forwards and has happened because we have been able to deliver extended access in a way that, initial figures suggest, impacts on A and E attendances, and is popular with patients. Thank you to all practices who have supported this project and to all doctors and admin staff who are working in it.

We continue to look for ways to get involved in projects that our shareholders see as priorities and to respond to any concerns our shareholders have. We ask that any concerns or ideas are brought to us, at least initially, rather than to the CCG or anyone else. We hope that our shareholders will feel a sense of ownership and loyalty to Primary Care Manchester Limited and continue to demonstrate the goodwill that exists now.

Working with Commissioners

We have been meeting the CCG each month to review progress, understand each others issues and discuss projects. We have felt that the CCG has been supportive and understanding of our challenges and have had this confirmed by the strong support they have now shown for the extended access project.

Working with the LMC

We continue to work closely with the LMC to ensure that our work fits with the priorities of GPs and fits the political backdrop.

Our aim is to support primary care and maintain the things that we value while also developing primary care services to meet the challenges we face.

General Meeting

We are holding a general meeting on Wednesday 2nd July, 1-3pm at the Hough End Centre. There are two main areas for discussion; the new, finalised shareholder's agreement and our strategic direction including partnerships between providers.

Shareholder's agreement

As you may recall we have had to reissue the shareholder's agreement because we feel that there were some areas of concern. After painstaking redrafting we now have the new agreement ready to sign. This will be circulated and can be signed and returned if practices are happy with it. If there are any questions or issues please contact us at pcm.enquires@nhs.net. We will also be happy to discuss any concerns or clarifications at the general meeting on the 2nd July.

Alliance contracts

We have had meetings with other local providers about working together in the future. These include CMFT, NWAS, Manchester City Council and Manchester Mental Health and Social Care Trust. The CCG has initiated steps towards agreeing a formal alliance contract, and has indicated that this type of alliance is where future funding is going to come from. Historically, there has been distrust of the motives and strategy of other providers and so we want to be open about our discussions and plans.

In parallel to this, we have set up a joint working group of directors at PCM and senior executives at CMFT. We plan to discuss this further on the 2nd July.

Data sharing agreements and EMIS Web

As a GPPO we have several unique selling points. We bring the engagement of our shareholders, coverage of the 217 000 patients in Central Manchester and experience and expertise in primary care service delivery. We have another USP in our innovative use of the EMIS Web system to allow our services to benefit from continuity of information, sharing access to notes between practices and our extended access service for instance.

The current software uses an innovative and unique data sharing approach, possible through EMIS Web, that allows doctors working for us to access (with consent) the full patient medical record. Data access controls are as tight as possible for a functional system and we will keep this under review. There is an audit trail for every single access to the system made by any user. Staff booking appointments do not have any access to the clinical records. We are working closely with EMIS to develop the system further and introduce further restrictions on data sharing.

Our projects are dependent upon our shareholders signing and returning the data sharing agreements. If

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Better Care Fund (BCF)

We understand that although there has been some rumblings in the press about this funding being withdrawn that in our area this funding, possibly re branded, will continue.

Care homes project.

We are putting together a business case for a bid to the BCF for funding for additional organisation of GP services in nursing homes. The GP element will be to provide regular contact with nursing homes and employ a clinical lead to promote quality and review and adapt the project as we go along. CMFT will provide an extension of the existing 'Nursing home support service' to become a larger team as the 'Care homes support service'. Initially there is money available for a pilot project for 6 months from October 2014 to end of March 2015 and this is an opportunity to get a service model started and learn from this phase with the hope that we can attract on going funding.

Other projects

Mental health services

We have had a number of meetings with mental health providers and other GPPOs in north and south Manchester regarding a possible opportunity to be involved in a bid for mental health services if it is decided that there will be a procurement process for this contract. We hope to work with a lead provider and the GPPOs in north and south Manchester to put together a bid that maintains the parts of the service that work well and provides new solutions and priorities where they are needed. Our aim is to be the provider of the parts of this service that can best be provided in primary care in Central Manchester. We also expect to be able to influence a bid to be more effective overall and specifically to address the need in primary care more effectively.

Phlebotomy

Negotiations with CMFT continue about a better way to organise and deliver adult and children's phlebotomy services across Central Manchester. The complex mix of historic funding arrangements and services is a challenge to navigate in order to create an effective equitable service but we continue to explore the possibilities.

Bids for other funding

Prime Minister's Challenge Fund

Our bid for a share of this money was not successful but we have been told that we were unlucky losers and that being recognised as such may provide opportunities in the future.

Representing Central Manchester Primary Care

We are continuing to attend committees including:

Central Manchester Provider Partnership

Central Manchester Integrated Care Board

Central Manchester CCG Engagement & Reference Group

Central Manchester Urgent Care Board

Manchester LMC & Tri-Manchester GPPOs

To try to be a voice for primary care and to understand the changes, challenges and opportunities primary care faces.

Next steps

We continue to explore other possible partnerships with local healthcare organisations.

We have started discussions with GPPOs in south and north Manchester and plan to play a leading role in encouraging collaboration between neighbouring areas.

If you would like to be involved in developing one of the services mentioned or you have an idea for a project or service that we should consider, then please get in touch at pcm.enquiries@nhs.net or directly with any of the directors below.

Best wishes,

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