

Darlington PBC cluster update

Introduction

The following provides an update on the progress of Practice Based Commissioning (PBC) within the Darlington locality and the ongoing developments within the cluster.

Freed up resources

Two practices in Darlington achieved freed up resources (FURs) from 2007/08. One practice made minimal savings which were used to invest in equipment for their practice to aid diabetic patients. The other practice made significant savings and this has helped to realise the practices vision of extending their premises in order to be able to offer further services due to additional room capacity.

PBC reward scheme.

The new PBC reward scheme has moved away from the traditional model of freed up resources and moved to a more focused scheme based on improving health outcomes for patients. All 11 practices have signed up to the new scheme and 10 out of the 11 have signed up to all the elements within the scheme and will be subject to a quarterly review to monitor progress.

Commissioning intentions.

All practices were asked to complete commissioning intentions for 2009/10 based on the needs of their practice population. Each practice was provided with an information pack comprising of data which was specific to their practice population and was used as a tool to help focus on areas that were of particular need to help patients and evidence why it should be a commissioning priority. The majority of practices highlighted similar areas of need and these were collated together to form a cluster wide specific commissioning plan, incorporating the areas that were of most concern for the practices across the cluster.

6 key areas were identified:

- Obesity and weight management
- Increased access to psychological therapies and counselling services for areas such as debt counselling, worklessness etc
- Develop improved care and services for COPD
- Develop an improved primary care pathway for diabetes
- Improved access to gynaecology and sexual health services for all ages.
- Improving alcohol services for detoxification and additional support.
- A 7th area was identified via our stakeholder forum on children and young peoples health and progress around the issues raised in this event will be monitored

Many of Darlington's PBC cluster commissioning intentions will be progressed by joint commissioning and public health colleagues and work has been undertaken to ensure the clusters commissioning intentions are met within county wide proposals.

Public health lead on obesity and weight management programmes and the introduction of the PBC reward scheme has ensured that weight management training is offered to all practice staff who will help to deliver programmes for their patients.

The mental health joint commissioner is working towards increased capacity and improved access to psychological therapies and public health colleagues have plans to develop counselling services and help improve the mental wellbeing of the Darlington population. A mental health workshop was held on the 3rd February to explore the initiatives around mental health and how this affects the cluster and further work is to be undertaken as a result of this workshop.

Work is already underway with the development of improved services and pathway redesigns in the areas of COPD and diabetes. Further work is to be done at a cluster level to develop how the local model will look.

Currently a service specification is being produced around gynaecology and sexual health services from the commissioning team. Some elements of these service specifications will be able to be delivered at a GP practice level and will provide an opportunity to those practices currently offering more enhanced services to still deliver these to the local community.

An alcohol strategy has already been launched and further work is to be done at a cluster level with DAAT and public health to understand the role PBC can play in the development of improved services for the cohort of patients who need additional support services to cater for their needs.

Annual operational plan.

The majority of Darlington's commissioning intentions are included in the annual operational plan (AOP) bids from the various service leads and the cluster manager has ensured that the clusters intentions will be met within these proposals. The PBC cluster has translated four intentions into a new standard format for projects covering outcomes, goals, initiatives and metrics (OGIMs) and applied for funding via the AOP process. These four are as follows:

- Funding for counselling sessions related to financial difficulties and worklessness. Within this current economic climate, this bid has been put forward to support the funds that have already been requested by public health. This additional resource will ensure that the whole cluster population will be able to benefit from these pilot schemes.
- Funding for additional support for managing diabetic patients in primary care. This money would help fund additional support for practices in primary care who are initiating insulin and managing complex diabetes care. This is an interim pilot to help ensure patient safety whilst a service specification is finalised for insulin initiation in practice.
- Funding for additional support to commission additional services for patients who seek help for alcohol related problems. This work would be seen to work

alongside the work already underway by public health colleagues and the DAAT team, but it was felt that this was a specific need by some of the practices for the Darlington population at this current time.

- Funding to help support the implementation of the local strategic project for Darlington.

Strategic project.

The Darlington PBC group has been tasked with localising the urgent care and primary care strategy for the locality as well as looking specifically at the paediatric pathway that has been of a particular interest to the GPs in Darlington. Currently, this project is being driven forward in the three separate strands i.e. the urgent care strategy, primary care strategy and the paediatric pathway.

Urgent care project - one of the main issues in Darlington has been linked to a high A&E attendance rate coupled with a high volume of patients also using the walk-in facility and out of hours service with no real integration and understanding of how these services link together. With the launch of the urgent care strategy it is vital and appropriate that this work stream should be linked into the PBC group to ensure the service model will work locally.

Primary care strategy – the PBC group is tasked to look at the provision of primary health care services for the cluster and if there are any areas of the town that have a particular need. This process will be approached from a commissioning perspective to understand if there are any gaps in the provision of primary care services and where these should be located. In the first instance, the basis of this work will be to involve public health colleagues to undertake a health needs assessment on the Darlington population.

Paediatric pathway- a significant amount of work has already been achieved in looking at the patient pathway for children through secondary care. The main involvement from the PBC group will be to understand how they can support the model to work at a local level.

Currently, for these three strands of work, the PBC cluster manager is working with colleagues to scope the scale of the projects and understand the role that the PBC group has to play in the successful implementation of these strategies.

The structure of the PBC groups in Darlington is also being reviewed to ensure the strategic project is progressed effectively and will involve smaller task groups to drive forward the above mentioned strategies.