

HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD	AGENDA ITEM No. 4(a)
16 JANUARY 2014	PUBLIC REPORT
Contact Officer(s):	NHS England Area Team

PRIMARY CARE STRATEGY – UPDATE REPORT

RECOMMENDATIONS	
FROM : NHS England Area Team	Deadline date : N/A
<p>This report is intended to provide an update on the work being progressed by NHS England East Anglia Area Team to develop a strategic framework to support the development of primary care in East Anglia.</p>	

1. ORIGIN OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report is submitted to Board following a request from a member – Mr Andrew Reed, Director NHS England East Anglia Area Team

2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT

- 2.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an update to the Board on the work being progressed by NHS England to provide a strategic framework for primary care development in East Anglia.
- 2.2 This report is for the Board to consider under its terms of reference no. 2.1 ‘to bring together the leaders of health and social care commissioners to develop common and shared approaches to improving the health and wellbeing of the community’.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 As part of the national NHS England *Call to Action* the NHS England East Anglia Local Area Team has been working with local Clinical Commissioning Groups and the Local Professional Networks to consider what we need to do, both at a national and local level, to be confident of ensuring our local population has access to high quality, sustainable and thriving primary care services.
- 3.2 Through a process of engagement and consultation we have tested the propositions set out within “Improving General Practice – a Call to Action”, while also working with our three Local Professional Networks to begin discussions in advance of the launch of the respective Call to Action processes planned for 2014.
- 3.3 The process undertaken in East Anglia has included a meeting with each Clinical Commissioning Group in East Anglia, the circulation of a questionnaire to stakeholders and county based stakeholder events. Through this process we have engaged directly with over 450 people including professionals working in, or with, primary care, representatives from patient groups, local authorities and the voluntary sector to seek their views, collate evidence and test and shape strategic priorities.

- 3.4 A key principle of the Area Team approach has been to ensure alignment with our local Clinical Commissioning Group and Local Health and Wellbeing Board strategic planning processes. We are confident that this will ensure that the key themes and issues set out within the strategic framework will support the wider health and social care planning work that is being taken forward led by the CCGs and Health and Wellbeing Boards.

5. Emerging Themes

- 5.1 The feedback we have had through discussions with local professionals, clinical leaders and the public has confirmed the central role of Primary Care in improving health outcomes and meeting local need. It has confirmed that overall, existing primary care services across East Anglia are good and improving, providing a strong base for future development. The discussions have, however, helped us to be clearer about where we need to focus our efforts over the next five years to ensure that:

- Care is increasingly integrated and provided in a joined up way to meet the needs of the whole person;
- People will be increasingly able to play a full part in the management of their health and wellbeing
- Care is clinically effective and safe, delivered in the most appropriate way
- Primary care can play a full part in helping the wider healthcare system make the best use of limited resources
- We create an environment which ensures that we are able maintain and develop a motivated, skilled and dedicated primary care workforce
- There is a clear and shared understanding among the public and professionals of individuals rights, responsibilities and expectations
- We can be confident that there is equity across East Anglia – equity of “offer”, equity of “access” and equity of “outcome”.

6. Strategic Framework

- 6.1 Our local discussions have confirmed that there is a shared ambition to create thriving, high quality and sustainable primary care that works to improve health outcomes and support a reduction in health inequalities. To achieve this we recognise that we need to develop a strategic framework that responds to the current and future challenges as summarised in the figure below.



Challenges Facing Primary Care taken from the Royal College of General Practice publication *Patients, Doctors and the NHS in 2022*

- 6.2 There is a growing acceptance that general practice, and primary care more generally, will be most likely be able to address these challenges and seize new opportunities if it operates at greater scale and in greater collaboration with other providers. At the same time there is also acceptance that general practice should preserve its traditional strengths of providing personal continuity of care and its strong links with local communities.
- 6.3 Our local discussions have confirmed that there is no single blueprint for how general practice can best meet our shared ambition. It is clear that it will not be achieved simply or primarily by adopting new organisational forms, but these will have a part to play. Our focus will be on working collaboratively to understand how best we can work with primary care professionals to enable them to provide services for patients more effectively and productively, and how we can help practices benefit from collective expertise and resources.
- 6.4 Locally there are discussions taking place among practices to consider how they might work more collaboratively through coming together in federations, networks or 'super-partnerships' with the aim of addressing a range of issues which may include:
- pooling of clinical expertise, offering a greater range of generalist and more specialist services;
 - helping GPs and practice staff maintain and develop their professional skills;
 - improving patient access (including greater availability of consultations outside traditional opening hours, and consultations outside of the surgery);
 - supporting innovative approaches to planning and delivering services by way of shared learning and ideas;

- working collectively to develop more integrated care with community health providers, out-of-hours providers, community pharmacy, social care and voluntary/charitable providers;
- enabling more systematic approaches to governance and risk assessment;
- providing development opportunities for GPs, practice nurses, practice managers and other staff;
- creating opportunities to provide new services outside hospital;
- creating the potential for greater economies of scale in administrative and business functions to reduce overhead costs.

6.5 With specific reference to Peterborough, the Area Team will be working with the CCG to support these discussions, noting specific issues in relation to:

- understanding the implications of new national contract frameworks and ensuring fair funding of primary care services;
- ensuring that there is a framework agreed with the CCG and key partners to enable the re-procurement of a number of time limited general medical contracts to support the continued delivery of high quality, sustainable services that meet the needs of the local population;
- progressing agreed, priority primary care estate developments with the aim of supporting the delivery of integrated services;
- reviewing the current equitable access centre at St Neots to ensure that it is aligned to the local urgent care strategy;

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 The Health and Wellbeing Board are asked to note the progress made to develop a strategic framework to support the development of primary care services.

8. CONSULTATION

8.1 It is expected that the Draft Strategic Framework for Primary Care will be subject to consultation with key partners, including Health and Wellbeing Boards as an integral part of the five year strategic plan development.

9. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1 To raise awareness of the work being progressed to support the development of a strategic framework for primary care.