

HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD		AGENDA ITEM No. 4
		PUBLIC REPORT
Contact Officer(s):	Cath Mitchell. Local Chief Officer, Greater Peterborough Local Commissioning Group (LCG)	Tel. 01733 776177

ST GEORGE'S HYDROTHERAPY POOL

RECOMMENDATIONS	
FROM : Cath Mitchell. Local Chief Officer, Greater Peterborough Local Commissioning Group (LCG)	Deadline date : N/A
Members are asked to note this report	

1. ORIGIN OF REPORT

1.1 This report is submitted to Board following a request from the Health and Wellbeing Board.

2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT

2.1 The purpose of this report is to provide information requested by the Health and Wellbeing Board in relation to the CCG's decision not to provide funding to St Georges Hydrotherapy Pool.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 The CCG has contributed to the funding of the Hydrotherapy pool at St George's in the past on the basis of referrals being made into the service by local GPs.

3.2 The number of referrals made to the service by GPs is very small and ad hoc. There are a number of people utilising the pool without a GP referral and the majority of these people are self-funded.

3.3 While the CCG recognises how valued these services are by those with disabilities, or who require rehabilitative treatment, it does not have a clinical policy in place to support the referrals into the service.

3.4 Taking into account the CCG's current financial situation, the high volume of people self-funding without a GP referral, and that there is no clinical policy in place, the CCG has ultimately taken the decision not to contribute to the funding of the hydrotherapy pool, and not to commission the service for GP referrals. We understand how disappointing this will be for those who use the service.

3.5 There is a hydrotherapy pool at Addenbrookes hospital (CUH). In order to access aquatic therapy all patients need a dry land physiotherapy assessment at CUH prior to hydrotherapy, therefore the physiotherapist deems eligibility. Hydrotherapy is an add-on treatment to physiotherapy at CUH. It is funded through the contract for physiotherapy, not as a stand alone service..

3.6 All LCGs are able to refer to CUH hydrotherapy, however as mentioned above the CCG does not have a clinical policy in place to support referrals to aquatic therapy services.

3.7 Self referral and self-funding is still an option at St George's and if a GP feels strongly that a patient would benefit clinically from hydrotherapy, they could refer to an alternative NHS

provider or apply to the CCG for individual funding through exceptional cases. The GP would need to complete an exceptional cases form giving details of the individual circumstances of the patient and how they could benefit from hydrotherapy as opposed to land-based physiotherapy. Cases would be assessed on an individual basis by the exceptional cases panel.

More information on exceptional cases can be found on our clinical policies website:

<http://www.cambsphn.nhs.uk/CCPF/ExcpntalandIFR.aspx>

4. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES

The Board is requested to note the reasons behind the decision not to fund.

5. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

This report is for information and noting.

6. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

A copy of the St George's report produced by users of the hydrotherapy pool, has been sent to the clinical lead for the Proactive Care and Prevention Programme, within the NHS Sustainability and Transformation Programme to consider as feedback as part of the 'Evidence for Change' <http://www.cambridgeshireandpeterboroughccg.nhs.uk/STP/>.

7. IMPLICATIONS

Self referral and self-funding is still an option at St George's and if a GP feels strongly that a patient would benefit clinically from hydrotherapy, they could refer to an alternative NHS provider or apply to the CCG for funding through exceptional cases. However as there isn't a policy in place to support this, cases would be assessed on an individual basis.

8. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

None.