

GP Practice Opening Hours – Briefing Note

Primary Care Commissioning Committee meeting

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24 May 2017

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| Author(s) | Rachel Pickering, Primary Care Co-Commissioning Manager |
| Sponsor Director | Nicki Doherty, Interim Delivery of Delivery – Care Outside of Hospital |
| Purpose of Paper | |
| To brief the committee on the position for Sheffield to enable Sheffield CCG to give the required assurances to NHS England. | |
| Key Issues | |
| Access to GP routine care during GP core contract hours due to half day closure. | |
| Is your report for Approval / Consideration / Noting | |
| Noting. | |
| Recommendations / Action Required by the Primary Care Commissioning Committee | |
| The Primary Care Commissioning Committee is asked to note the content of the briefing note. | |
| Governing Body Assurance Framework | |
| <p><i>Which of the CCG's objectives does this paper support?</i></p> <p>2. To improve the quality and equality of healthcare in Sheffield</p> <p>4. To ensure there is a sustainable, affordable healthcare system in Sheffield.</p> | |
| Are there any Resource Implications (including Financial, Staffing etc)? | |
| <p>Resources from the Primary Care Team are required to ensure that a delivery plan for Sheffield is in place before October 2017.</p> <p>Other resource implications are on our GP providers to ensure that resources are deployed equitably across the week to meet the needs of the service.</p> | |

Have you carried out an Equality Impact Assessment and is it attached?

Please attach if completed. Please explain if not, why not

A EIA will need to be carried out as part of the service delivery proposal for GP practices that needs to be in place for October 2017 and will be proposed at the PCCC June meeting,

Have you involved patients, carers and the public in the preparation of the report?

No, this current report is a briefing note on our position only. Patient and service user involvement needs to be included as part of the service delivery plan for Sheffield.

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From 1 October 2017 new contractual conditions will be introduced, which will mean that practices who regularly close for a half day, on a weekly basis, will not ordinarily qualify for the Extended Access Directed Enhanced Service (DES).

A significant number of practices in Sheffield have traditionally closed for half a day each week.

Formal contractual terms in relation to the requirement to deliver the Extended Access DES have yet to be issued. However, in our local discussions with NHS England colleagues it is clear that their focus is on ensuring an accessible primary care service offer which meets patients' routine as well as urgent needs during core GP opening hours.

Core GP opening hours are defined as 8.00 am – 6.30 pm Monday to Friday.

All GP practices are required to report their 'normal' opening hours for patients to access routine GP care to NHS England (NHSE).

- Last data collection was December 2016 but a new data collection from practices is currently underway (March 2017).
- Data collected measures three elements
 1. Patient access to essential services in cases of emergency
 2. Patients accessing services during core hours
 3. Potential half-day closing by practices

Sheffield was identified as an outlier under point 3, and the Sheffield CCG has been asked to articulate a plan to NHSE on the Sheffield position for achieving core access to general practice at the end of June. This plan needs to include a trajectory for the numbers of practices that will be offering Thursday opening and, where this is not the case, what solutions can be put into place.

A letter was sent to our GP providers on 6 April to explore the options working collaboratively with GPs, Primary Care Sheffield, the CCG, and supported by the Local Medical Committee (LMC), to find a meaningful local solution. The approach will be to ensure that the population of Sheffield has access to the services that they need across the week and it will also link into our new models of community based care. This work is currently on hold due to Purdah.

In addition, as part of our GP Forward View programme, Sheffield has signed up through a NHSE scheme, to pilot the Edenbridge system which can support the development of access systems. We will be working with our practices, following the implementation, to agree what data can be shared with the CCG and use the Edenbridge software as a possible means of establishing a baseline from which to demonstrate prospective improvements in access. This will support our longer term solution.

The Primary Care Commissioning Committee is asked to note this brief.

Paper prepared by Rachel Pickering, Primary Care Co-Commissioning Manager

On behalf of Nicki Doherty, Interim Director of Delivery – Care Outside of Hospital

15 May 2017