

GP Retention Scheme - Additional Application

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Primary Care Commissioning Committee Meeting

29 May 2019

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Sponsor Director	Nicki Doherty, Director of Delivery, Care Outside of Hospital
Purpose of Paper	Primary Care Commissioning Committee (PCCC) is asked to approve an application to the GP Retention Scheme.
Key Issues	<p>The role of Primary Care Commissioning Committee is to confirm if sufficient budget remains to support any application to the Scheme approved by Health Education England (HEE). An eligible application, approved by HEE, has been received by SCCG.</p> <p>A recurrent budget of £50k was established in 2018/19 of which sufficient remains to approve the application. However, following approval of this application no further funding will be available until one or more retained GPs leave the scheme.</p>
Is your report for Approval / Consideration / Noting	Approval
Recommendations / Action Required by the Primary Care Commissioning Committee	The Primary Care Commissioning Committee is asked to approve the application to the GP Retention Scheme presented here, noting the implications and action being taken to consider the future of the scheme.
Governing Body Assurance Framework	<p><i>Which of the CCG's objectives does this paper support?</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To improve patient experience and access to care 2. To improve the quality and equality of healthcare in Sheffield 4. To ensure there is a sustainable, affordable healthcare system in Sheffield 5. Organisational development to ensure CCG meets organisational health and capability requirements
Are there any Resource Implications (including Financial, Staffing etc)?	Financial implications for the approved application for this year and future years. Staffing implications for supporting the annual review process
Have you carried out an Equality Impact Assessment and is it attached?	No, there is no opportunity for the CCG to influence which GPs are approved or the practices supported after HEE has approved them.
Have you involved patients, carers and the public in the preparation of the report?	No, not applicable

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1. Introduction

- 1.1. PCCC are asked to approve funding for an approved application to the GP Retention Scheme. Sufficient budget remains to support the application.
- 1.2. PCCC will recall that the purpose of the GP Retention Scheme is to provide ‘a package of financial and educational support to help doctors who might otherwise leave the profession to remain in clinical general practice’ through enabling a doctor to remain in clinical practice for a maximum of four clinical sessions per week, which includes protected time for continuing professional development and with educational support.
- 1.3. In September 2018 the Primary Care Commissioning Committee agreed a recurrent budget of £50,000 to fund eligible applications, approved by HEE, to the GP Retention Scheme at a cost of £5,000 per session.
- 1.4. Two applications were agreed in September 2018 and a further application was agreed in March 2019 at a total cost of £40,000 per annum for up to five years against the agreed budget of £50,000, leaving a budget of £10,000 remaining recurrently. Further details of these applications are presented at table 1 below.

Table 1: Approved Retention Scheme Applications

	Applicant 1	Applicant 2	Applicant 3
HEE Approved?	Yes	Yes	Yes
Practice	Stannington	Wincobank	Carterknowle and Dore
Number of Sessions	4	1	3
Cost per year (for up to 5 years)	£20,000	£5,000	£15,000

2. The Application

- 2.1 An application has been received and is summarised at table 2 below.

Table 2: Current Application

	Applicant 4
HEE Approved?	Yes
Practice	White House
Number of Sessions	2
Cost per year (for up to 5 years)	£10,000

2.2.The application is from a GP who wishes to join the scheme in order to continue in general practice while completing their doctoral research in palliative care.

2.3.HEE have approved the application.

2.4.The application is for two sessions a week at a total cost of £10,000 per year for up to 5 years. This is within the remaining Retention Scheme Budget of £10,000 and therefore PCCC are asked to approve the application.

3. Other Issues

3.1. Following the approval of this application no budget will remain to fund further applications to the GP Retention Scheme until one of the retained GPs leaves the Scheme. Unless other arrangements are agreed then PCCC will be asked to reject any future eligible applications until budget is released. The CCG is aware that at least one further application to the scheme is pending.

3.2.While the shortcomings of the Retention Scheme, primarily that it is not possible for a CCG to align approval to workforce policy to ensure that support is given to those areas where additional clinical capacity is required, are accepted the Scheme does secure ongoing experienced clinical capacity within Sheffield at a time of immense pressure and significant change in primary care.

3.3.At the PCCC meeting in September 2018, it was acknowledged that it was likely that a recurrent budget for GP Retention Scheme which was greater than the £50,000 allocated would have to be found from within Delegated Primary Care funding particularly as there would be pre-commitments from 2018/19.

3.4.Further work is ongoing within partners in the South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw Integrated Care System (SY&B ICS) to strengthen the existing process together with communication with NHS England, HEE and GP practices to look at the current and future financial position.

3.5.Once this work is concluded it will be presented to PCCC, however, in the meantime it is proposed to communicate with Sheffield GP Practices and HEE to inform them that no further funding is available at present for new applications.

4. Action for Primary Care Commissioning Committee

The Primary Care Commissioning Committee is asked to:

- Approve the application to the GP Retention Scheme presented here, noting the implications and action being taken to consider the future of the scheme.

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On behalf of: Nicki Doherty, Director of Delivery, Care Outside of Hospital

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