

Consultation on Proposals for Improved Access to GP Services in County Durham

This consultation document details how County Durham Primary Care Trust (PCT) is proposing to implement recommendations relating to the development of GP led health centres included in Professor Lord Ara Darzi's NHS Next Stage Review Interim Report (published in October 2007). The consultation period will run from 2 May 2008 until 4 August 2008.

Background

On 13 December 2007, the Secretary of State announced a national programme to deliver extended and improved access to GP services. This programme is intended to address inequalities and improve the quality of primary care. Across England there will be 150 GP led health centres and 100 new GP practices in areas of greatest need. These centres must reflect local need and circumstance and maximise the scope for co-location with other community-based services. County Durham PCT has to procure a GP led health centre using a fair and consistent process that all eligible providers can take part in.

What County Durham Primary Care Trust wants to do

The national programme is intended to address inequalities and improve health in the areas with the most need. Although there are a number of areas in County Durham with high levels of need, the evidence of a rigorous health needs assessment has shown that the area of greatest need is Easington and for this reason it should be here that the GP led health centre should be located. As part of the consultation, the PCT is keen to know your views on this.

The purpose of this GP led health centre will be to:

- To ensure the location of the centre is in the most deprived area of the PCT
- To improve access and equity for hard to reach groups and this could be through developing outreach services
- To reduce health inequalities and improve health and well-being
- To increase health promotion and address the wider determinants of health
- To address worklessness and social exclusion through partnership working
- To deliver fair, personalised, effective and safe services.

The main features of this new development will be:

- That it is GP led
- Any member of the public can access GP services from 8am until 8pm seven days per week
- The location will be easily accessible
- There will be both bookable appointments and walk-in services
- There will be access for non-registered patients

- There will be significant opportunities to improve patient care and reduce health inequalities through delivery of specialist and outreach services
- There will be increased health promotion services such as healthy eating and lifestyle advice and support will be available
- There will be improved access and equity for hard to reach groups
- There will be services that integrate with other out-of-hospital and community services
- There will be opportunities to develop more creative models of care.

What services will be delivered

The PCT has identified a number of services that could be delivered in the new health centre, including:

- Cervical screening
- Child health surveillance
- Minor surgery
- Maternity medical services
- A contraceptive service including intrauterine contraceptive device (IUCD) and contraceptive implants
- Childhood immunisations and pre-school boosters
- Influenza and pneumococcal immunisations
- Other vaccinations and immunisations
- Alcohol misuse
- Anti-coagulation
- Minor injury
- Near patient testing
- Cardiovascular screening
- Smoking cessation
- Weight management
- Worklessness
- Sexual health
- Diabetes
- Zoladex

Your Views

Your views on this new GP led health centre are very important to County Durham PCT and we would particularly value any comments on the proposed location of the health centre, the proposed services to be delivered there and, because the PCT will be inviting providers to tender for delivering the services, the criteria that you think should be used for assessing these potential providers.

Further information and the opportunity to put forward your views will be available at the PCT 'Big Conversation' meetings to be held on the following dates:

- Parish Centre, Chester-le-Street, Co Durham DH3 3QB

7 May, 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

- St Patrick's Church Hall, Consett, Co Durham DH8 5AX
8 May, 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm
- Lamplight Arts Centre, Stanley, Co Durham DH9 0NA
13 May, 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm
- The Four Clocks Centre, 154 Newgate Street, Bishop Auckland,
Co Durham DL14 7EH
14 May, 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm
- Committee Room 2, County Hall, Durham DH1 5UL
15 May, 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm
- Eastlea Community Centre, Stockton Road, Seaham, Co Durham SR7
8DX
20 May, 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm
- Pioneering Care Centre, Newton Aycliffe, Co Durham DL5 4SE
21 May, 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm
- Mickleton Village Hall, Mickleton, Barnard Castle, Co Durham DL12
OJR
27 May, 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm

If you are unable to attend any of the above meetings, we will be holding a separate meeting on 18 June from 6:00pm – 8:00pm at County Hall in Durham.

In addition, you can complete an online questionnaire at www.countydurhampct.nhs.uk, e-mail your views to glynis.parker@cdpct.nhs.uk or write to Glynis Parker, Project Manager, County Durham Primary Care Trust, John Snow House, Durham University Science Park, Durham, DH1 3YG.

Additional Copies of this document can be downloaded from the PCT website or by contacting: glynis.parker@cdpct.nhs.uk

Paper copies, large print versions, other languages and formats are available on request from The Communications Department, County Durham Primary Care Trust, Lanchester Road, Durham, DH1 5XZ

Publishing the results of the consultation

The results of this consultation will also be available on the PCT website or by contacting us at the address above after 31 August 2008.