

REPORT TO: Health Policy & Performance Board
DATE: 7th February 2017
REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, People
PORTFOLIO: Health and Wellbeing
SUBJECT: General Practice Alignment/Care Home
WARD(S) Borough-wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To share with the Board, an update on NHS Halton Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG's) project to align General Practice with care homes in Halton.
- 1.2 To ask the Board to review and comment on the recommendations listed below.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That:

- i) The Board notes the update provided in the 'General Practice Alignment/Care Home – Options Appraisal Paper', attached at Appendix 1.**
- ii) The Board and the CCG discuss and agree whether the proposal amounts to substantial variation.**
- iii) Pending the above discussion the Board supports the proposed approach to consultation.**

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 NHS Halton CCG with the support of Halton Borough Council is proposing to align care homes within the Borough with identified General Practice/s. Care home residents have very complex and considerable health needs, and are entering the final stages of their lives. In Halton the length of stay in a nursing home is 0.8 years, and residential home 1.2 years. These individuals require consistent high quality care that is tailored to specific individual needs. It is expected that care home numbers will rise significantly in response to our ageing population. Currently, individuals remain with their existing GP when they move to a care home, this results in care homes having to liaise with multiple GP Practices. Both the care homes and GP's report that this has an impact on developing close working arrangements which are essential in providing the care that these individuals require. It is also anticipated that an alignment of General Practice to care homes would result in releasing time currently being spent by Practices visiting multiple care homes, and care homes liaising with several practices that could be converted into direct care.

- 3.2 The report 'GP Alignment/Care Home – Options Appraisal Paper' was presented to the CCG Service Development Committee on the 14th December, where it received full support.
- 3.3 Early conversations with care homes in the Borough and Teams with input into care homes have been positive.
- 3.4 The CCG is working with NHS England's National Lead for Enhanced Health in Care Homes Vanguard Lead, and has been assured that this alignment work is in keeping with forthcoming NHS England guidance.
- 3.5 The Report, consultation outline and the Equality Impact Assessment are being submitted to the Local Medical Committee meeting on the 6th February 2017, for support. NHS Halton CCG's LMC link GP is supportive of the project.

4.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 The commissioning of quality, safe and effective general medical services is critical to ensuring improved care and outcomes for residents and supports NHS Halton CCGs Sustainability and Recovery Plan.

5.0 **OTHER/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 There is no financial implication to the initial aligning of GP Practice to an identified care home/s. The development of a service model of care would require additional financial support, possibly through a CCG Local Enhanced Service Scheme.
- 5.2 There is a national guidance expected from NHS England in the New Year with associated funding for a local scheme planned, though not guaranteed at this point.

6.0 **IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

6.1 **Children & Young People in Halton**

Not applicable.

6.2 **Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton**

The alignment of General Practice to care homes in Halton will help to support and maintain healthy and resilient workforces both within General Practice and within care homes.

The Board may wish to note that there is a separate programme of work underway led by NHS Halton CCG Chief Nurse and Halton Borough Council's Assistant Director of Adults Social Care which seeks to address further, training and retention of staff within care homes.

6.3 **A Healthy Halton**

An alignment model is expected to support improved care and outcomes for residents as well as the alleviation in pressures for both workforces.

6.4 **A Safer Halton**

A closer working rapport between care homes and General Practice will strengthen

relationships; reduce medication/prescribing issues and support early identification of issues that may require support or action from another agency, thus improving care.

6.5 **Halton's Urban Renewal**

Not applicable.

7.0 **RISK ANALYSIS**

7.1 The main risks for this project relate to potential non-engagement of stakeholders. It is anticipated that this will be mitigated through the consultation period.

7.2 There is a risk that national funding may not follow in the New Year and the CCG are reviewing local options to support new model development as an alternative option.

8.0 **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

8.1 An initial Equality Impact Assessment has been carried out. This has been reviewed and accepted by the CCG Equality Lead.

8.2 On completion of consultation the CCG will finalise the Equality Impact Assessment.

9.0 **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

9.1 None under the meaning of the Act.