

FEEDBACK FROM THE SUNDERLAND NHS PROVIDER FORUM

Report of the Chair of the Sunderland NHS Provider Forum

The Sunderland NHS Provider Forum met on 5th November at South Tyneside Foundation Trust. 7 members were present representing 6 of the 7 members.

Issues discussed were:

ASE Event Follow up

The Forum expressed a desire to be involved in the follow up event as long as there is clarity on the purpose of the session and that it is action focussed.

Better Care Fund

Clarity was requested on the CCG underspend and reserve figures –assuming we will get some returned to the local health economy is a high risk strategy particularly when it is needed to pump prime the BCF.

It was also suggested that the BCF is not being well communicated with the social care system

As work on the BCF plan development has finished, the Provider Forum would like to request additional items the HWBB would like it to investigate on its behalf.

Role of the Provider Forum

The possibility of merging the provider forum into the transformation board was discussed and the TOR of both groups were looked at. This option was discounted as the provider forum:

- Wanted to retain the direct route to the HWBB
- Wanted to have a chair independent of the major commissioners
- Has a clear remit to advise the HWBB on any provider issues and to engage with providers on a regular basis

Membership of the Forum

The group welcomed Philip Foster to the group representing the largest care provider in Sunderland. The GP Alliance membership was discussed and agreed to review once issues regarding who they represent and their mandate were resolved.

Manpower

The LMC highlighted area teams stats showing that there has been a 16% reduction in GPs linking themselves to Sunderland compared to a 9% reduction across Tyne and Wear. The age of GPs was also highlighted with 26% over 55 and 39% over 50 – and with new retirement regulations, they could leave at any time.

Extra GPs are needed for the delivery of locality teams but there was no clearly articulated plan for recruitment and retention available. There was a consensus that

manpower issues were of significant concern in Sunderland and could seriously impact on the delivery of integration and the 5 year strategy.

Providers were requested to collate their key manpower issues to highlight the issue. The Forum agreed to request that the HWBB agree a methodology for developing solutions to manpower issues and to request involvement in this methodology.

Engagement Event

As part of the terms of reference of the forum, there is a commitment to hold an annual broader provider engagement session to provide information on the work of the forum and also to gain views from a wider range of providers on what the focus of the group should be over the next year.

Forum members were asked to provide comment on what would make the event a 'must attend' and whether there were alternative mechanisms for engagement to piggy back onto eg homecare providers networks.

HWB Assurance

It was agreed that providers are already regulated by a number of independent bodies and that the key question for assurance should be to focus on how providers are assisting the HWBB to deliver the HWB Strategy. This will be presented to the next HWBB for discussion.

It was felt that if the HWBB wanted greater involvement in statutory assurance processes, then there could be a strengthened role for the HWBB in existing statutory processes such as health scrutiny and in CQC feedback sessions.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Health and Wellbeing Board is recommended to:

- Note the content of the feedback report from the Provider Forum
- Suggest topics to task the provider forum with investigating on behalf of the HWBB
- Note the providers concerns over manpower issues
- Agree to receive a further report on assurance from providers