

SUNDERLAND APMS PROCUREMENT**REPORT OF CHIEF OFFICER SUNDERLAND CCG****1. Purpose**

The purpose of this report is to update the committee on NHS Sunderland Clinical Commissioning Group's (SCCG) decision to re-procure three Alternative Provider for Medical Services contracts in Sunderland which are due to terminate in the contract year 2015/16.

2. Background

- 2.1 The majority of primary medical service contracts held by GP practices in England and Wales are open-ended. There are however some newer contracts that are time-limited.
- 2.2 Encompass Healthcare, Pennywell Medical Centre and Barmston Medical are GP practices which deliver essential, additional and enhanced services to a registered list of 13,541 patients (as at 01 July 2015) under individual Alternative Provider for Medical Services (APMS) contracts. After a number of contract extensions the practice contracts are now due to terminate on 30 September 2016.
- 2.3 In line with NHS England policy entitled, '*Managing the end of time-limited contracts for primary medical services*', a service review has been carried out for the three individual APMS practices. A continued need for services has been identified.
- 2.4 A report was presented to the Primary Care Commissioning Committee of SCCG on 16 July 2015 to consider the options to secure continuity of primary medical services for patients of the three practices. The Committee decided to re-procure **one** APMS contract with three sites. The decision was also made that the Barmston branch surgery would not be procured.

3. Procuring one APMS contract with three sites

- 3.1 The CCG proposes to commission a **single** APMS contract for the 13,541 patients currently registered, as well as new patients, to be provided from the following sites:
 - Galleries Health Centre, Washington Town Centre
 - Barmston Medical Centre, Westerhope Road, Barmston
 - Pennywell Medical Centre, Pennywell Shopping Parade, Pennywell

- 3.2 The benefits of this procurement model include:
- registered patients would be able to attend any of the sites for services, increasing choice of access;
 - sustaining service provision through economies of scale - staff would be able to work across three sites;
 - reducing variation in quality of care through one provider delivering primary medical services across 3 sites;
 - increasing the opportunity for potential providers to attract staff and deploy a wider skill mix, which is relevant with current recruitment difficulties in Sunderland in the current and medium term;
 - the size of contract (registered list size of 13,541) may make it more attractive to bidders to tender;
 - supports national strategy of larger practices to ensure sustainability and enable commissioner and provider to explore new models of care.
- 3.3 Under this proposal the branch site of the Barmston GP practice, located in the Galleries Health Centre, would be vacated but the GP services commissioned will be delivered from three sites (see 3.1) including the Galleries Health Centre.
- 3.4 The new contract would start 01 October 2016.

4. Engagement

- 4.1 The proposal to re-procure the APMS contracts does not constitute a significant variation of NHS services as GP services will continue to be delivered in the three sites: The Galleries, Westerhope Road and Pennywell Shopping Precinct. However, in the spirit of section 242 and 244 of the NHS Act 2006 (as included in the Health and Social Care Act 2012), SCCG wants to engage with the affected patient population and stakeholders about the procurement.
- 4.2 During September and October 2015, SCCG is carrying out a communications and listening exercise with patients and stakeholders. We will use a range of methods to capture views and experiences as well as suggestions, questions, comments and concerns.
- 4.3 We will write to patients registered with Encompass Healthcare, Pennywell Medical Centre and Barmston Medical practices to reassure them that commissioned services will continue to be provided. All registered patients will receive a letter explaining the procurement process together with a patient information sheet, survey and invitation to attend drop-in sessions.
- 4.4 Engagement will be carried out over September and October 2015 and the CCG will write formally to patients to let them know how their feedback has been used at the end of November.

- 4.5 Stakeholder engagement is taking place through existing meetings and includes MPs, local Councillors, Healthwatch Sunderland, Local Medical Committee, wider GP practices, the three practice patient participation groups and Sunderland Health and Wellbeing Board.

5. Timescale

- 5.1 Table 1 shows key milestone and timescales

Milestone	Description	Date
Listening and engagement	Inform and capture views of directly affected patients and stakeholders	October 2015
Advert	Market being informed through publication of tender advert	November 2015
Contract award	Official sign off of contract to successful bidder	March 2016
Mobilisation	Mobilising the contract following award	April 2016 – September 2016
Service start	Service in place	01 October 2016

Dates are subject to final approval by SCCG.

6. Recommendations

- 8.1 The Scrutiny Committee is asked to note:

- the proposal to re-procure the three APMS contracts due to terminate on 30th September 2016;
- SCCG's plans to engage with directly affected patients and stakeholders about the procurement; and
- key milestones and associated timeframe.

Glossary of Terms

CCG – Clinical Commissioning Group

APMS – Alternative Provider Medical Services (APMS)

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