

REFRESH OF GENERAL PRACTICE COMMISSIONING STRATEGY

REPORT OF CHIEF OFFICER SUNDERLAND CLINICAL COMMISSIONING GROUP

1 Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee with an update regarding the refresh of Sunderland Clinical Commissioning Group's (CCG) General Practice Commissioning Strategy.

2 Background to the strategy development

- 2.1 In 2016 the CCG published its first General Practice Commissioning Strategy 2016-2021 which explained the CCG's vision of '*Better Health for Sunderland*'. The overall aim was to '*sustain and transform general practice to ensure the provision of high quality primary medical care, delivering improved health outcomes for local people, now and in the future*'.

- 2.2 To do this the CCG developed five objectives:

OBJECTIVE 1	Supporting general practice to increase capacity and build the workforce
OBJECTIVE 2	Improving patient access
OBJECTIVE 3	Ensuring the central, co-ordinating role of general practice in delivering out-of-hospital care
OBJECTIVE 4	Supporting better health through prevention and increasing patients' capacity for self-care
OBJECTIVE 5	Encouraging new working arrangements between practices.

- 2.3 A number of initiatives were developed to support delivery of the objectives and the CCG, working alongside delivery partners, has implemented many of these initiatives to date.
- 2.4 However, since the publication of the strategy in 2016, there have been several changes within the NHS both locally and nationally. These changes include the publication of national schemes such as the General Practice Forward View (GPFV), the introduction of Integrated Care Systems and Partnerships and latterly the publication of the NHS Long Term Plan which included fundamental changes to how General Practice will deliver services in the future via Primary Care Networks and digital solutions.
- 2.5 From a local perspective, commissioners and providers within Sunderland have been working collaboratively to develop the 'All Together Better' model

which is split into four programmes, one of which is dedicated to General Practice.

- 2.6 In light of these changes to the healthcare landscape, it became apparent that the CCG needed to review and refresh the existing strategy to ensure it included key developments within General Practice and the wider healthcare system.

3 Strategy revision

- 3.1 In order to determine the objectives and deliverables within the revised strategy, and to understand what is important to practices, facilitated engagement events were held in each locality with all practice personnel.

- 3.2 At the events practices informed the CCG that there was a need to concentrate on the following areas in order to meet the overall aim of strategy:

- **Workforce** – Practices reported that they need more staff and a greater diversity of skill mix to meet patient demand. The importance of training and retention of staff was highlighted. Workforce requirements include the need for specific roles to address gaps in current provision within general practice such as mental health support, social prescribing and further clinical pharmacist input;
- **Integrated working** – Practices stated that they would like primary and community services to be available in a more integrated manner with robust collaboration between different healthcare organisations to ensure patients are cared for holistically. Removal of bureaucracy and duplication across the wider healthcare sector and further integrated working with social care were also highlighted;
- **Premises and IT/digital** – Practices stated that they need faster IT with greater interoperability alongside an estate which is fit for purpose, meets capacity needs and ensures the sustainability of general practice;
- **Prevention and Self-Care** – Practices highlighted the importance of having access to tools/information that support patients to take responsibility for their clinical conditions and a greater focus on the prevention agenda;
- **Communication** – Practices stated that they need standardised information, templates and guidance which are clear, easy to use and support them in their daily work.

- 3.3 On reviewing the delivery of initiatives against the CCG's original objectives, along with changes to the local and national healthcare landscape, it was determined that the objectives within our revised strategy should remain the

same, however a number of initiatives have been developed within the strategy to ensure delivery of the objectives. Alongside practices, key stakeholders received drafts of the strategy prior to its finalisation, including members of the CCG Executive (clinical and non-clinical), Governing Body members, Sunderland Local Medical Committee, ATB Executive, Sunderland City Council, South Tyneside and Sunderland NHS Foundation Trust and Sunderland GP Alliance. All have contributed to the initiatives stipulated in the revised strategy. The initiatives are shown in section 4 of the attached strategy (Appendix1).

- 3.4 The revised strategy has been formally approved by the CCG's Governing Body and is now published.

4 Recommendation

- 4.1 The Committee are asked to note the content of this report and the refreshed strategy that has been developed.