

## **Guide to Borderline Local Commissioning Group**

This short guide is intended to provide you with information about Borderline Local Commissioning Group.

### **What is a Local Commissioning Group?**

A Local Commissioning Group is the name that has been given to a group of GP practices who have chosen to come together to commission (buy) health services for their local communities.

Borderline Local Commissioning Group will be responsible for commissioning NHS services for patients registered with a practice the group that have been commissioned historically by NHS Cambridgeshire ( the primary care trust for Cambridgeshire). NHS Peterborough and NHS Northamptonshire.

Borderline will also be responsible for commissioning hospital services and community services (for example district nurses), and mental health services to people living on the Peterborough/Cambridgeshire/Northamptonshire border and surrounding areas.

### **Why the move to Local Commissioning Groups?**

Health services have historically been commissioned by primary care trusts (PCTs). This way of buying in services means that GPs, who are the best placed to advise on their patients needs, have been too far removed from the process.

In 2009/2010, NHS Cambridgeshire reviewed its 5 year plan and developed a number of priority areas on which to focus. One priority was to work in partnership with GPs to develop a more devolved system of commissioning, which would take into account local knowledge and the expertise of GPs.

The Health & Social Care Bill 2011, reinforces this view and, in time, much of the responsibility for commissioning health services will be given over to GPs.

### **Priorities for health**

The Borderline local commissioning group has been working with NHS Cambridgeshire and other local NHS partners to identify the priorities that patients have said they want from their health care. Priorities will be further developed in the coming months as part of the pilot programme.

Below is a list of some of the initial priorities for Borderline:

- Develop services and treatments for patients within the community. Patients have told us that, wherever possible, they would like to be treated closer to their own homes.
- Develop a new community based dermatology service using nurse practitioners.

- Increase the availability of diagnostic services (ie blood tests, x rays etc) within the local community - with test results to be made available to doctors much quicker to allow for an early diagnosis.
- Increase the use of the direct access community colonoscopy service to enable treatment closer to home
- Develop community diabetic services to allow complex cases to be treated in the community, without patients having to go to outpatient hospital appointments.
- Develop a rapid response team to enable patients who have had a fall to be cared for in their home rather than being admitted to hospital
- Expand counselling services for young people in the area

### **Practices in the Borderline Local Commissioning Group**

At present, there are 10 GP practices that have formed Borderline Commissioning Group. These are as follows:

- Doddington Health Centre
- Jenner Health Centre, Whittlesey
- New Queen Street, Whittlesey and Stanground Surgery
- Yaxley Group Practice
- Thorney Medical Practice
- Hampton Health
- Nene Valley Medical Practice
- Old Fletton Surgery
- Wansford
- Oundle

### **Lead GP**

The lead GP of The Borderline Commissioning Group is Dr Richard Withers who is based at Yaxley Group Practice.

Yaxley Group Practice  
Landsdowne Road  
Yaxley  
Peterborough  
PE7 3JL

<http://www.yaxleygp.nhs.uk>

### **What does this mean for patients?**

As the Local Clinical Commissioning Group develops its commissioning role, patients will benefit from;

- More local care available for patients
- Greater accountability to patients

- Swifter decision making and change
- More locally developed methods of treatment for patients
- More cost effective services

All of the Borderline Commissioning Group practices have active patient participation groups where patients can get involved in ensuring that the services commissioned by the Borderline Commissioning Group are those that patients want. Please contact your practice manager if you would like to become involved your contribution will be greatly appreciated.

**Further information**

Please contact NHS Cambridgeshire's Communications Team:

Lorraine Rollo, Assistant Director of Communications and Marketing  
T 01223 725321 or email [Lorraine.Rollo@cambridgeshire.nhs.uk](mailto:Lorraine.Rollo@cambridgeshire.nhs.uk)

Or

Daisy Brittain, Communications Officer  
T 01223 725317 or email [Daisy.Brittain@cambridgeshire.nhs.uk](mailto:Daisy.Brittain@cambridgeshire.nhs.uk)

July 2011