

## **Guide to Hunts Health Local Commissioning Group**

This short guide is intended to provide you with information about Hunts Health, which is a pilot Local Commissioning Group in Cambridgeshire.

### **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.

Hunts Health Local Commissioning Group will be responsible for commissioning NHS services for patients that have been commissioned historically by NHS Cambridgeshire (the primary care trust for Cambridgeshire).

Hunts Health will be responsible for commissioning hospital services and community services (for example district nurses) and mental health services primarily for people registered at their practices. However many aspects of the commissioning changes we are making particularly work with Hinchingbrooke benefits all patients attending the hospital regardless of practice.

As the pilot project develops we will be able to bring you further information on Hunts Health and other Local Commissioning Group in Cambridgeshire. Updates will be posted on NHS Cambridgeshire's website – [www.cambridgeshire.nhs.uk](http://www.cambridgeshire.nhs.uk).

### **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 expertise of GPs.

The health White Paper: Equity & Excellence: Liberating the NHS was published in July 2010. The White Paper reinforces this view, and in time, much of the responsibility for commissioning health services will be given over to GPs.

### **Priorities for health**

The Hunts Health 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. As part of the pilot scheme it is expected that priorities will be further developed in the coming months.

However, below is a list of the current priorities for the Hunts Health Local Commissioning Group:

- 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.
- Continue to work closely with Hinchingsbrooke Hospital to ensure that patients get the best services possible in their hospital treatment.
- Reduce further the amount of time that patients stay in hospital – bringing patient care closer to home.
- The NHSC Medicines Management Team will continue to provide support to practices to reduce their prescribing spend.
- Implement a local diabetes service. This will take elements of the countywide diabetes model currently being piloted in East Cambs and Fenland. This will improve the outcomes for people with diabetes within the 10 Hunts Health practices.
- Extend the Gainsborough Foundation Service (alcohol detox and support service) to a further 4 practices with the East of England Innovation Fund bid. Hunts Health has already approved and funded a continuation of the successful alcohol related work at Rainbow Surgery and extended to Ramsey Health Centre from November 2010.
- Improve contract monitoring at practice and local commissioning group level.
- Ensure a cost effective local service for pathology and diagnostics.
- Support older people and vulnerable adults to remain in their own homes, if it is their wish to do so and there is no clinical reason for a hospital admission.
- Liaise closely with residential and nursing homes to work towards enabling older people and vulnerable adults to get treated in their own home environments wherever it is appropriate.
- Overarching programme across practices to develop proactive, integrated system of care. Patients will be empowered to manage and control their long term conditions.
- Work with Hinchingsbrooke Hospital and GPs in Huntingdonshire to understand when and why referrals are made elsewhere, and what needs to be different to encourage GPs to refer to Hinchingsbrooke Hospital. This will ensure the sustainability of a local acute Hospital for the people of Huntingdonshire.

### **Practices in 'Hunts Health' GP Commissioning Cluster**

At present there are 10 GP practices that have formed Hunts Health. These are as follows:

- Ramsey Health Centre
- The Old Exchange Surgery, St Ives
- Great Staughton Surgery
- Papworth Surgery
- Kimbolton Medical Centre
- Acorn Surgery, Oak Tree Centre, Huntingdon
- Priory Fields Surgery, Huntingdon
- Eaton Socon Health Centre, St Neots
- Charles Hicks Centre, Huntingdon
- Rainbow Surgery, Ramsey

### **Lead GP**

The lead GP in Hunts Health is Dr Simon Brown who is based at Ramsey Health Centre:

Ramsey Health Centre

Mews Close

Ramsey

Huntingdon

Cambridgeshire

PE26 1BP

[www.ramseyhealthcentre.co.uk](http://www.ramseyhealthcentre.co.uk)

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

As the Local Commissioning Group develops its commissioning the 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

### **Further information**

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