

Information revolution on the way

The White Paper *Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS* called for an "information revolution for the NHS" with patients having access to information on all aspects of health care to enable them to better share in decision making about their own care.

The Department of Health's Director General of Informatics, Christine Connelly, has initiated an Informatics Transition Programme which will work closely with the Intelligence for Commissioners workstream of the SHA's Commissioning Development Programme to design and implement the changes which will make this vision a reality.

It is anticipated giving citizens a real voice based on high quality, credible information will lead to them taking more control over their own health and to them shaping services to meet their requirements.

- Patients will control their own health records, determining who else can access their records and able to see changes when they are made
- The public will be provided with access to comprehensive, trustworthy and easy to understand information from a range of sources on conditions, treatments, lifestyle choices and how to look after their own and their family's health. A range of third parties will be encouraged to provide information to support patient choice
- Patient generated information will become critical, with much wider use of Patient-Reported Outcome Measures (PROMS), patient experience data and real-time feedback. Patients will be able to rate services and clinicians according to the quality of care they receive.

Further information can be sought on the Informatics Transition Programme from Trevor Wright, Deputy Chief Information Officer; trevor.wright@yorksandhumber.nhs.uk or on the Intelligence for Commissioners workstream John Hampson, Associate Director of Finance; john.hampson@yorksandhumber.nhs.uk .

Coaching for GP commissioning pathfinder leaders

A comprehensive package of support for GP commissioning leaders is currently being developed by the National Leadership Council, in collaboration with GPs and others. Executive (NLC) coaching funded by the NLC is the first part of that support to be made available. GP pathfinders may choose to take up one or both of the options on offer:

- Individual executive coaching – four fully funded two-hour sessions
- Team coaching – one fully funded session of team coaching

To access coaching support, please contact the NHS Institute for Innovation and Improvement by email at leadership@institute.nhs.uk or by telephone on 08458620036.

NHS East of England BMA Pathfinders Workshop

NHS East of England recently held a BMA Pathfinders Workshop Event where they invited two lawyers to discuss with commissioners the legal implications of GP commissioning. To view the presentations from the event go to http://www.pbc.eoe.nhs.uk/page.php?page_id=240

To ask any questions and contribute to the ongoing discussions, go to <http://www.pbc.eoe.nhs.uk/forum/>

Liberating the NHS: Developing the Healthcare Workforce

Following the publication of the consultation document, *Liberating the NHS: Developing the NHS Workforce*, the SHA has put together a programme board which will oversee the proposed changes to the workforce and education structures as well as developing possible options for the future.

The programme board will be chaired by the SHA's director of workforce and education, Tim Gilpin. The membership of the programme board will be drawn from senior representatives of NHS organisations, universities and other key stakeholders. The work of the programme board will be supported by a number of task groups looking at key areas of work, including undergraduate and postgraduate education, workforce, finance and transition arrangements. If you have any questions regarding this body of work please contact sue.benson@yorksandhumber.nhs.uk

Third wave of GP pathfinders announced

The third wave of GP consortia pathfinders was announced this week by the Department of Health.

Among the new pathfinders, three were in Yorkshire and the Humber taking the total number to 17 in the region and 177 nationally. Over 74% of the population in Yorkshire and Humber is now covered by a pathfinder.

The new groups are North Kirklees Health Alliance, Greater Huddersfield Commissioning Consortium and Rotherham Commissioning Executive.

PCT Clusters

There is a national requirement for groups of PCTs to merge to form clusters, with a single executive team, from June 2011. The purpose of clusters will be to:

- Oversee delivery during the transition and the close down of the current system. In so doing, they will ensure PCT statutory functions are delivered up to April 2013.
- Support emerging consortia, the development of commissioning support providers and the emergence of the new system providing the new NHS Commissioning Board with an initial local structure to enable it to work with consortia following the abolition of the SHA in March 2012.

Yorkshire and the Humber will have six clusters as shown below,

1. Barnsley, Bassetlaw, Doncaster, Rotherham and Sheffield
2. North Yorkshire & York
3. East Riding of Yorkshire, North Lincolnshire, North East Lincolnshire and Hull
4. Leeds
5. Bradford & Airedale
6. Calderdale, Kirklees and Wakefield

Appointments to each of the clusters are expected to be made early next week.

Existing sub-regional resilience arrangements established through WYCOM, NORCOM and NEYHCOM will continue to provide mutual aid and resilience, and collaborate and cooperate where is desirable over a bigger footprint.

NHS Barnsley is leading, with colleagues, on work with the SHA to develop an outline governance and delegation framework which could be used by all PCTs within the new cluster arrangements. Documents have been shared with all PCT Chief Executives.