

NHS Commissioning Board

Following its official launch on 31 October 2011 the NHS Commissioning Board has now launched its own website. The website provides information on the NHS Commissioning Board as well as links to useful documents.

To access the website go to: <http://www.commissioningboard.nhs.uk/>

The NHS Commissioning Board Special Health Authority, established on 31 October 2011, plays a key role in the Government's vision to modernise the health service and secure the best possible outcomes for patients. Its role is to make all the necessary preparations for the successful establishment of the NHS Commissioning Board. In the meantime, all current NHS planning and delivery responsibilities remain with the Department of Health, strategic health authorities and primary care trusts.

Urgent and Emergency Care: A 'whole system' approach

A commissioning guidance document has been published by the Royal College of General Practitioners which draws on many discussions with pathfinder Clinical Commissioning Groups, current commissioners and experts to build a picture of the "whole system" impacting on urgent and emergency care, including health, social care, self care and the third sector.

This guidance deliberately places greater emphasis on demonstrating the interdependencies between services to illustrate the "bigger picture" rather than on specific "how to" guidance on commissioning processes.

It describes what urgent and emergency care is, why it is important to commissioners,

Please see a link to the document: <http://www.yorksandhumber.nhs.uk/document.php?o=7986>

Building the local public health system

An event took place on 27th October at Leeds Town Hall to look at progress to date in building the new public health system.

The event had a range of speakers from both local and national levels and also provided an opportunity for local areas to share their ideas and best practice.

Delegates from the NHS and local authorities attended the event at which it was also revealed that five guidance papers are now being developed to set out the final details of how the new system will work. This guidance is expected to be available before Christmas 2011.

A full report of the conference is being put together and will be posted on the Yorkshire and Humber Public Health Observatory website. Details of where and when to find the report will appear in forthcoming editions of Transition News. For further details of the public health transition, please contact your local director of public health. For further details or to give feedback on the event at Leeds Town Hall please contact: carol.massey@yorksandhumber.nhs.uk or sarah.mcmurray@yorksandhumber.nhs.uk.

The Month – October issue

Issue 48 of **the month**, the latest monthly update from the NHS Leadership Team, focussing on transition, is now available at <http://www.dh.gov.uk/health/category/publications/bulletins/the-month/>.

The Health Select Committee's Report on Public Health

As part of its inquiry into public health, the Health Select Committee has this week published a report examining Government's proposed public health reforms.

In launching the report, Chair of the Select Committee Rt Hon Stephen Dorrell MP said that "Public Health England (PHE) must be visibly and operationally independent of Ministers. It must demonstrate that it is able to, and regularly does, speak 'truth unto power'. Just as PHE needs to be visibly independent of central government, the director of public health in each locality needs to be a chief officer of the local authority with a statutory duty to address the full public health agenda within the locality."

On leadership and coordination, he said that "With regard to the national policy dimension of health improvement, we remain unconvinced that the new Responsibility Deal will, by itself, resolve major issues such as obesity and alcohol abuse. The Government must set out clearly how progress will be monitored, and when tougher action will be taken if 'nudging' does not work."

The Committee also warned of the need for more clarity about who will be in charge in a public health emergency, and about plans for the Public Health Observatories to ensure that this important resource is not lost before PHE is established. Concerns were also raised about the 'Health Premium'.

Other recommendations include that the Secretary of State for Health be given an explicit statutory duty to reduce inequalities in public health as well as to protect the public from dangers to health, and for Directors of Public Health to be members of the board for each Clinical Commissioning Group and for a qualified public health professional to sit on the NHS Commissioning Board.

Read the report at: <http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201012/cmselect/cmhealth/1048/104802.htm>

Patient and public engagement in the new commissioning system – discussion paper

Achieving effective patient and public engagement (PPE) has been a cornerstone of NHS policy for many years. Successive Governments have worked to embed the principles of engagement in health service design and delivery. This NHS Confederation [paper](#) considers the critical issues which clinical commissioning groups (CCGs) will need to address in developing approaches to meaningful and effective PPE.

Developing Commissioning Support

Please find below a draft Department of Health document entitled Developing Commissioning Support: Towards Service Excellence.

This document sets out a framework to support PCT clusters to ensure that they have all the right information and expertise to help them make the best decisions with respect to commissioning support.

Commissioning support is the assistance which commissioners (both CCGs and the NHSCB) can draw on to help them deliver their functions.

A further document will be produced later this year that will reflect this ongoing stakeholder engagement and feedback on this draft framework.

<http://www.yorksandhumber.nhs.uk/document.php?o=7993>

<http://www.yorksandhumber.nhs.uk/r9Z6j/admin.php?p=editDocument&id=7994>

<http://www.yorksandhumber.nhs.uk/document.php?o=7995>

Events:

- **Procurement: the cornerstone of commissioning**

This essential event for commissioners and providers debunks the myths and helps delegates understand the role of procurement in successful commissioning. It considers the role of Any Qualified Provider versus tendering, the importance of clinical consensus and patient engagement, and how better contract management and provider development can avoid unnecessary procurements. The events will be held on [29 November](#) (London) and on [6 December](#) (Leeds).

- **Poverty, Debt and Financial Inclusion: 'Health impacts and commissioning to address them'**

Monday 28th November 2011

Hilton Hotel, Neville Street, Leeds

The financial downturn has exacerbated the numbers of people experiencing financial difficulties. Significant national and local studies have demonstrated the growth in numbers of people who are in poverty and those experiencing problems of debt and financial exclusion. Numbers of people experiencing fuel poverty have risen alarmingly and are likely to continue to increase.

Evidence is also growing regarding the impact that these issues have on population health and wellbeing. However recent studies suggest that coverage of these issues in Joint Strategic Needs Assessments has been slight, and often these have not gone on to suggest policy or commissioning measures to address the associated health impact.

To attend the event please register by using this link: <http://www.yorksandhumber.nhs.uk/document.php?o=7989>

Change of date

- **Clinical Commissioning Groups' Governance Development**

Please note the event was initially expected to take place on 16 November 2011.

The SHA Organisational Development and Leadership team has commissioned the following to support CCGs in their Governance Development.

The first of two workshops will be held at the Radisson Hotel in Leeds on 9 January 2011. This will be a full day workshop, which is free to attend and aimed at helping CCGs to understand the basic principles of good governance and to start to think about how they can put these into practice or to test current thinking against them. It will be run by the Foresight Partnership which has been working closely with the Department of Health on good governance standards for the NHS for the past 4 years and has worked extensively within the NHS developing boards.

A second workshop will then be held in spring next year to help CCGs to proof their governance arrangements for the Assurance Process. More details will follow early next year.

Please note this workshop is not designed to give details of the National Commissioning Board's specific Membership requirements but focuses on underpinning principles and practices. There will be one place available for each CCG in NHS Y&H and one additional place for a PCT Cluster representative. To secure a place please email Nerys.Davies@yorksandhumber.nhs.uk with name, CCG or Cluster represented, and contact details and she will forward more information.