

North Cumbria Programme Board – update April 2014

At the monthly meeting of the North Cumbria Programme Board on 3 April 2014, the main items for discussion were the external support being provided by Price Waterhouse Cooper (PwC) and plans to begin engagement activity with the public and NHS staff.

External support

Due to the extent of the difficulties faced by the health economy in Cumbria, NHS England, the Trust Development Authority and Monitor have jointly commissioned intensive planning support for challenged health economies. This is being provided in Cumbria through PwC who are already involved with the Better Care Together work in South Cumbria and North Lancashire and with North Cumbria University Hospitals NHS Trust.

The objectives include:

- enabling both commissioners and providers to submit strategic plans in June 2014 that are robust, deliverable and clearly set out how the anticipated challenges will be met
- facilitating commissioners and providers to develop full implementation plans for the change that is required
- providing national partners (NHS England, Trust Development Authority and Monitor) with confidence that the capacity is in place to deliver the plans and outlining any areas of risk or where further support may be necessary.

A key task as part of this is for PwC is to develop a detailed and consistent understanding of the financial challenges across organisations and of the potential funding gap which will exist in North Cumbria in five years if no action is taken. This work will include reviewing two year plans for North Cumbria University Hospitals NHS Trust, Cumbria Partnership NHS Foundation Trust and NHS Cumbria Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG).

PwC are also organising a Care Design Group which involves care professionals representing primary care, acute care, community services, mental health services etc from across North Cumbria in working together to define models of care for the system. The care professionals involved in this session represent their professions and not their employer. Patient representatives will also be involved.

Engagement activity

Media briefings were being arranged to launch the engagement activity during the week beginning Monday 7 April 2014.

This will include ten roadshows at towns and villages in Allerdale, Copeland, Carlisle and Eden during April and May. These are being facilitated by Healthwatch Cumbria and will take place in market places or other busy venues.

Two meetings are being held in mid-May with representatives from the community and voluntary sector, facilitated by Cumbria CVS.

Colleagues from NHS Cumbria CCG will be working with both Healthwatch and CVS to ensure that specific communities of interest are either included in the engagement events or that additional meetings are arranged to capture their views.

In addition, 16 focus groups are being arranged through TNS, the company that has been supporting the Better Care Together engagement activity in South Cumbria and North Lancashire.

It was agreed that the individual NHS organisations would organise drop-in sessions and events for their own staff to ensure that their views were also taken into account.

It was recommended that the North Cumbria engagement activity should be branded 'Together for a healthier future'. This was agreed subject to Healthwatch testing the wording and branding with patient representatives.

The CCG is developing a webpage where information about the engagement activity will be posted and an email address for questions and comments from the public.

Background to North Cumbria Programme Board

Health organisations across North Cumbria have come together to work on a plan to transform services.

The collective ambition is to provide local people with the best possible health and care services. This will be designed to ensure services are:

- more responsive to patients' needs
- the highest possible quality, including improving safety, outcomes and patient experience
- clinically and financially sustainable.

Services will be focussed on supporting people to stay well and to manage their own health and wellbeing, by developing more support within communities and in people's own homes.

This will mean organisations also working together to address some of the very real challenges that they face around quality, sustainability, finances and recruitment.

To do this the organisations have established the North Cumbria Programme Board which is working as part of the Cumbria Health and Care Alliance.

The Board comprises lead clinicians and senior managers from:

- Cumbria County Council
- Cumbria Partnership NHS Foundation Trust
- Healthwatch Cumbria
- NHS Cumbria Clinical Commissioning Group
- NHS England Cumbria, Northumberland, Tyne & Wear Area Team
- North Cumbria University Hospitals NHS Trust

The Board is chaired by Nigel Maguire, Chief Officer of NHS Cumbria CCG.

It will meet monthly and the intention is to issue updates for staff following each meeting.

7 April 2014