

St Albans and Harpenden Locality Commissioning Committee (LCC) Update (June 2015)

1) Evaluation of our 2014/15 Increasing Primary Care Capacity Scheme

Although a formal evaluation is currently underway, initial findings has shown that the Locality planned to offer 18,875 additional appointments during November 2014-March 2015 of which 17,985 (95%) were filled. Patients have also reported via the survey that it was easy to book appointments and at the times they preferred.

Once the formal evaluation has been completed, it is hoped that the scheme will be made available again for 2015/16 but confirmed over the summer months to give Practices more notice to schedule in workforce planning.

2) Locality Commissioning Committee (LCC) – Your Care Your Future

Our May LCC was extended to include a workshop on Your Care Your Future. The extended membership included the Chair of the St Albans and Harpenden Patient Group, our Community Navigator and a Community Voluntary Service representative. The objective of the extended meeting was to ensure that the feedback and comments would influence and shape our wider Stakeholder event being held on 3rd June.

Session one focussed on the emerging models of care. Key points raised included, ensuring a high level of emphasis on self-care, highlighting workforce difficulties around recruitment of appropriately trained clinical staff, and the feeling that the voluntary sector would be of great help, but would need to ensure training is to the same (or greater) standard as that needed to work within NHS organisations. Upskilling of this voluntary workforce may need to occur if needed.

Discussions occurred around the Urgent Care Centre in St Albans versus enhancing the MIU, which was felt to be a good service locally. When the out of hours GPs are on site, there are often referrals from MIU nurses to the out of hours GPs. Extended and improved radiology and phlebotomy access might help bolster the MIU centre. However, these discussions were in an early stage only.

Session two, table discussions focussed on what integrated care could look like for our Locality. Topics included Health and Social Care hubs, Multi- Speciality Community Providers and how enablers, IT, Estates and Workforce would be needed to support the new NHS landscape.

3) Member Practice Commissioning Agreement (MPCA) and Locality Priorities

Our locality priorities, funded by part A of the MPCA include improving uptake of bowel cancer screening and relationship building with childrens centres. Improving bowel cancer screening uptake has rolled on from last year. Relationship building with childrens centres will see all our practices meeting their local childrens centre raising awareness through the practice team about what services they offer and any referral processes. The Locality Team has also scheduled regular meetings with HCC and the HCT's Locality Manager, to support our Practices build on these relationships.