**Notes from the Somerset GP Board meeting- August 21st 2019**

* The first hour of the meeting was taken up with a presentation from representatives from Modality on their experience of running Primary Care and Intermediate Services at scale. They now cover 450,000 patients around the country in the West Midlands, Hull, Yorkshire, Surrey and Sussex amongst others. After Modality left, we discussed what, if any, lessons could be drawn from their experience of dealing with commissioners and large providers.
* We discussed the progress to date of the PCNs around the county, and how best we could support the Clinical Directors. The CCG had good news about recurrent additional funding from NHSE for PCN development and we discussed how this might be best deployed to maximum effect across the county. Although progress is variable, there is good work going on already across the Networks, with several working collaboratively together, and one achieving national recognition and funding for work in improving cancer diagnosis.
* We have arranged a meeting on September 24th to bring together the Clinical Directors, the GP Board and representatives from the acute trusts to further develop our ideas for an over-arching umbrella organisation for Primary Care.
* We heard of frustration in parts of the Health and Care system that Primary Care still doesn’t have a consistently strong voice at the highest level. This is the primary role of the Somerset GP Board, and following the last meeting the Chairman has been formally invited to join the Executive’s Group (PEG) and is already a member of the Leadership Board, and we anticipate that this perception will change. The Board has identified a priority list of meetings to which it will try to send representation. We are hopeful that with the development work planned in the next few months, the GP Board will be in a stronger position to provide consistent representation at the highest level.

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