

Somerset GP Board

Notes from Somerset GP Board Meeting January 15th 2020

In addition to the routine business of the board, we discussed the following:

Group Consultation Training. Transformation funding had previously been agreed to provide training for Somerset practices, and this has been arranged now via the ELC Group Consultation training programme. Initially this will be for 8 practices at each of three training days (ie 24 practices in total). Practices will receive more details in due course.

Clarity TeamNet. One Care have provided pricing for providing training for Somerset practices, but this was felt to be for more time than most practices would need, and hence too expensive. The Board recognised that Clarity was a useful resource and are investigating options for more focused training.

Somerset Primary Care Board. We discussed the development of the SPH Operational Board with involvement of the Clinical Directors. The Chair had attended a Somerset Leadership Board just prior to this meeting where the development of the new Integrated Care System for Somerset was discussed. The new structures include provision for Primary care representation, which we anticipate will be through the Operational Board/Primary Care Board. The new structures are to be discussed at a Somerset Board to Board meeting to which the CDs have been invited next week.

PCN DES Specifications. We discussed the draft DES specifications, the consultation period for which ended later the same day. The LMC and CCG had replied, as well as many of the Clinical Directors and practices. The specifications have been almost universally panned as unworkable and unrealistic, and there is an expectation that there will be a significant re-think by NHS England. As one senior colleague put it, “the retreat from Moscow has begun”.

Progress of Fit for My Future. It was noted that the formal consultation for the Mental Health services and Neighbourhood and Community Settings of Care work stream, previously delayed by purdah, had now begun.

Foundation Trust Items. The GP Board was saddened to hear of the resignation of Andrea Trill as the Medical Director for Integrated Primary and Community Care at the Alliance Trusts. She has proved an invaluable link between Primary and Secondary Care and will be sorely missed. We have not heard whether she will be replaced, but the Chair has written to the Trusts emphasising the importance of that particular role, particularly as the system works towards becoming an ICS.