

Media Release

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For Immediate Release

One Clinical Commissioning Group planned for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough

At the first cluster Board for NHS Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, meeting in Peterborough today, a decision was made to merge the current clinical Senate for NHS Cambridgeshire and the GP sub-committee for NHS Peterborough to set up a new sub-committee of the joint Board known as the shadow Clinical Commissioning Group Governing Body. This is in preparation for the move to one shadow Clinical Commissioning Group covering Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) consist of clinicians working alongside their local communities, to shape health services to meet the needs of patients. CCGs are a major part of NHS reforms empowering clinicians and putting patients at the heart of their local NHS. Both PCTs have worked hard to engage local GPs and clinicians who will continue to improve the health of the populations and services in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough and address specific health challenges in these areas. The focus for NHS Cambridgeshire and NHS Peterborough remains commissioning services that meet the needs of all the people of Peterborough and Cambridgeshire

Work is now under way to develop the new sub-committee which is expected to be made up of:

- GP members
- A lay member representing patient views
- A lay member to act as chair/vice chair • Chief Operating Officer/The shadow accountable officer and
- A secondary care clinician and nurse

Dr Sushil Jathanna, Chief Executive of NHS Cambridgeshire and NHS Peterborough clustered Primary Care Trust, said:

"This marks an exciting stage in the development of clinical commissioning for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. There is a lot of work still to be done to establish the new Clinical Commissioning Group from April but having clinicians at the heart of commissioning will ensure that quality services are developed that deliver good outcomes for patients.

"Peterborough and Cambridgeshire both have diverse communities and diverse needs. We work with local authorities to ensure we have a good understanding of local issues and we are committed to tackling health inequalities and commissioning good quality services for all."

Dr Simon Hambling, Chair of NHS Cambridgeshire's GP Senate, said:

"The NHS Cambridgeshire and NHS Peterborough clustered Board decision today signals an important commitment to clinical commissioning for the benefit of patients. The coming months will see us develop the structures and processes of our shadow from April 2012."

QUOTE FROM PETERBOROUGH GP LEAD- TBC

Notes for editors

GP clinical leaders from across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough met at the end of October to discuss the configuration of clinical commissioning across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough as we move forward.

There was consensus on a number of important elements of clinical commissioning working, namely: There is unanimous agreement that local groups of practices, working together, are best placed to engage GPs in commissioning. Our vision is that empowering Local Commissioning Groups (LCGs) will make a positive difference for patients. Each LCG should have the resources to deliver, and the flexibility to move forward at a pace which makes sense locally. Our existing local practice groupings in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough are already up and running and will continue to be developed to deliver our vision. All Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Practices are aligned to Local Commissioning Groups as Part of the CCG.

A Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) covering Cambridgeshire and Peterborough is our clear preference. It will be clinically led, and designed to enable and support LCGs. It will be large enough to manage financial risk effectively, attract the best staff, fulfil required statutory functions and effectively manage our relationships with other organisations.

The first Cluster Board meeting for NHS Cambridgeshire and NHS Peterborough took place today, Wednesday, December 21 at 9.30am in the Conference Hall, The Fleet, Fleet Way, Old Fletton, Peterborough, PE2 8DL. This is the first meeting since the clustering of the Boards of NHS Cambridgeshire and NHS Peterborough on December 1, following national Government policy to cluster Primary Care Trusts (PCTs). Maureen Donnelly, the former Chair of NHS Cambridgeshire, has been appointed as the new Chair of the Cluster Board.

By combining resources and working in partnership NHS Cambridgeshire and NHS Peterborough will be more effective in the transition to the Clinical Commissioning Group by 2013. Both PCTs have worked hard to engage local GPs and clinicians who will continue to improve the health of the populations and services in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough and address specific health challenges in these

areas. The focus for NHS Cambridgeshire and NHS Peterborough remains commissioning services that meet the needs of all the people of Peterborough and Cambridgeshire.

Primary Care Trusts were clustered to ensure the NHS achieves the necessary management efficiencies, reduces running costs and retains resilience within PCTs, enabling them to support the transition process effectively (including supporting the development of CCGs). Primary Care Trusts remain statutory bodies and delegate authority to the single management board to make decisions on their behalf.

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