

Somerset Clinical Commissioning Group

Clinical Leadership to Improve Health

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In This Issue

- [Editorial](#)
- [Cancer departments accredited](#)
- [Shepton Mallet Health Campus](#)
- [Information prescriptions](#)
- [Somerset Choices website](#)
- [The Care Act](#)
- [Improvement FUNdamentals](#)
- [Future in Mind mental health report](#)
- [Mental health apps library launched](#)
- [Simon Stevens on new care models](#)
- [The NHS in a nutshell](#)

Editorial - Vanguard Application Success

Congratulations to the Yeovil District Hospital (YDH) and South Somerset GP team on the successful bid with Somerset Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) to become a [Vanguard site](#) as recently awarded by NHS England. This is no mean feat as this bid was the only successful application in the South West and one of only 29 to be supported nationally. The bid submitted comprised five distinct elements for South Somerset: development of a local Primary and Acute Care Service (PACS) model for delivering service to patients with long term conditions (based on the previous Symphony project model); exploring different ways to support people in making health and care choices in the community (health coaches); development of a Joint Venture arrangement between YDH and local GP practices; implementing new models to optimise operating theatre utilisation; and networking services with other hospitals.

Somerset CCG was a party to the Vanguard application adhering to the principle that it is better to be involved in the forefront of change rather than waiting for others to determine change and have this imposed. The bid recognises that commissioner reform must accompany provider reform and the learning must be spread across Somerset and beyond. It was dependent on the host CCG having a track record of successfully delivering major projects, having financial stability and credible leadership and as such this successful bid also reflected well on Somerset CCG.

So what will this mean? Achieving Vanguard status will enable each element of the bid to be developed and tested to see if the changes implemented demonstrate benefit for patients and the NHS. The plans, and in particular the development of a PACS model, are in line with Simon Stevens' [Five Year Forward View](#) to develop new models of care within the NHS. Central support will be made available, including additional funds, to facilitate the project. These projects will be regularly monitored both locally and nationally and are expected to demonstrate positive outcomes within 12 months. The CCG is also committed to unlocking whatever national funding becomes available to support the other evolving Test and Learn projects across the county.

To keep readers up to date with the Vanguard project we will be reporting on development and progress of this landmark project in future editions of this newsletter.

Dr Geoff Sharp - Editor

Cancer Departments Accredited

Yeovil Hospital's Macmillan Unit has been awarded the seal of approval by an organisation responsible for reviewing NHS cancer services in England.

This means that both Oncology units in Somerset now meet this quality standard as Taunton's Musgrove Park Hospital was accredited in 2013.

As a CHKS (Caspe Healthcare Knowledge Systems) accredited unit, Yeovil Hospital has demonstrated the quality and safety of its adult cancer services, and shown it is dedicated to continually improving the experience of its patients. As part of the accreditation process the hospital had to meet more than 300 separate measures and host a rigorous two-day visit by specialists from the CHKS, who spoke to consultants, doctors, nurses, therapists, support staff, volunteers and patients.

CHKS undertake assessments of hospitals and healthcare providers, helping organisations to benchmark their services against the best examples in the country.

The accreditation comes as Yeovil District Hospital plans to recognise 21 years of acute Oncology. Its Macmillan Unit was opened in 1994 by the Prince of Wales and today provides around 5,000 courses of chemotherapy each year - a number it expects to increase by five per cent during this year.

For further information contact [Rachael Rowe](#)

Shepton Mallet Health Campus Update

On 10 March, the CCG held a Bidder Information Event for health service providers that have expressed an interest in the Shepton Mallet Health and Wellbeing Campus Service Procurement. The procurement was advertised from 27 February and supports the vision for the site:

'To develop a Health and Wellbeing Campus, providing primary and secondary care on the same site alongside health and wellbeing (H&WB) services that encourages people to self-care and support the illness prevention agenda'

The project has had good patient and GP support from inception.

The aims of the procurement are to commission a lead provider who will:

- Support the self-help and illness prevention agenda as specifically outlined in the Somerset CCG 5-Year Strategy
- Reduce duplication (in diagnostic provision, transit of diagnostic imaging, staffing and provision of outpatient specialties, etc)
- Improve quality of care through improved pathways and the physical environment
- Reduce costs of service delivery

The aims of the event were to:

- Inform interested organisations of plans for the site and procurement process
- Allow bidder organisations to make contact with charities and local groups
- Let bidder service providers know the aims of charities / local groups and what they can offer to support the aims for the site

A key deliverable for the procurement is the development of a Health and Wellbeing Centre that will signpost to, and bring together, the many

charitable organisations and local voluntary groups that already have an effect on the local population's health and wellbeing in the area. It is anticipated that the Centre will provide a variety of accessible services for the population and that these will be available outside of standard working hours. The contract delivered from this procurement is due to commence on site in December 2016.

This is an exciting procurement that brings together existing services and introduces new ways of working in order to support the CCG's 5-year Strategy; there has been significant interest from the market and 22 organisations have formally expressed an interest in the procurement to date.

For further details please contact [Elle Wilson](#)

Information Prescriptions

Somerset CCG has been working with Diabetes UK and primary care IT systems to enable people with diabetes who do not have their condition under control to be given personal action plans from their GP to improve their health.

Under the new scheme, if someone is not meeting their three targets for blood pressure, cholesterol or blood glucose then an alert will flash up on their GP's computer advising them that their patient could benefit from an 'information prescription'.

The simple and practical one page document, which will be tailored to each patient, will contain the crucial information they need on how to better manage their health and an action plan for improving their health that they agree with their GP. The document can be printed off and taken away by the patient.

The aim of the new approach is to make sure people with diabetes get the information they need, when they need it, with the recommended actions such as joining a walking group or testing blood glucose levels more often. If they are then able to improve their condition, they will be reducing their risk of long-term diabetes complications such as amputation, blindness and kidney failure.

At the moment, the majority of people with diabetes do not have their condition adequately controlled, with only 36 per cent meeting all three targets; which is, in turn, significantly contributing to the high complication rate. But it is hoped that the information prescription will make a positive difference.

Diabetes UK has worked with primary care IT systems, including EMIS Web, Vision and SystmOne, to make it as easy as possible for healthcare professionals to incorporate 'information prescriptions' into their consultations with patients. The cut off points for prompts in the IT system are based on National Institute for Health and Care Excellence guidance which sets out what targets patients should be achieving to reduce their risk of complications.

For more information contact [Claire Higdon](#) or visit the [Diabetes UK website](#). See also launch of [National NHS Diabetes Prevention Programme](#)

Somerset Choices Website - Update

Somerset Choices is the new website, led by Somerset County Council, due to launch in Spring 2015 (see [February CCG newsletter](#) for more information). The website will allow people to search for health and wellbeing information including care services, products, support group events and activities in their local area.

A number of well attended information events have been held during March and a further event is scheduled for Thursday 9 April 10.00am – 11.30am in Mendip District Council Office in Shepton Mallet.

The Council and Somerset CCG are encouraging local support groups, services providers and voluntary agencies to register their details in order to upload their information. To attend the event in Shepton Mallet or to find out more about registering with Somerset Choices please contact infoandadvicewebsite@somerset.gov.uk

For further information contact the CCG Project Manager, [Emma Dunford](#)

The Care Act is Here

The Care Act reforms are here from 1 April 2015 and people in Somerset are set to benefit from the changes. The new care reforms will affect people who receive care and support in Somerset and their carers.

What the Care Act will give:

- **Wellbeing** – a new emphasis from the Act. Somerset County Council will support not only the individual requiring care but also their carer with an assessment of their physical, mental and emotional needs.
- **Prevention** – The County Council now has more responsibility to prevent, reduce and delay the need for care.
- **Integration** – The County Council will not be working alone! The Act requires the council to work with partners as well as children's services.
- **Information and advice** – The Council needs to make sure people have clear, good quality information and advice.
- **Advocacy** – This must be available if an individual requests it.
- **Diverse care markets** – There is a duty for the County Council to ensure high quality services for individuals to choose from for the care they need.
- **Safeguarding** – The Safeguarding Adults Board role within Somerset is now developing in order to carry out its responsibilities.
- **Assessment and eligibility** – In Somerset any individual who appears to need support is entitled to an assessment. Carers are also entitled to a carer's assessment.

The County Council has developed a useful 'Question and Answer' document that will help answer the most common questions about the Care Act and the changes to care and support locally. Take a look at the 'Q&A' document on the Council's website, where you can also watch an animation that quickly explains what the Care Act is all about, visit: www.somerset.gov.uk/careact

If you are advising someone on the changes to care and support locally, direct them to find more information on the website or call Somerset

County Council on 0300 123 2224. If the person already receives care and support from the County Council they should speak to their Social Worker.

Improvement FUNdamentals

A new and innovative, free online course for people involved in health and social care has been launched by NHS Improving Quality (NHS IQ), in partnership with The Jönköping Academy for Improvement of Health and Welfare, Jönköping University and Qulturum, Jönköping Region in Sweden.

The Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) – called *Improvement FUNdamentals* – is now open for registrations and will begin in April. To register e-mail mooc@nhsiq.nhs.uk

Improvement FUNdamentals is delivered entirely virtually in the form of learning resources including videos, articles, readings and exercises. At the end of each module, a live knowledge exchange event takes place, which allows users to learn from experts and debate and connect with each other.

So far, the course has been piloted with a small group of 'critical friends', but anyone with an interest in health and care improvement will be able to sign up to the live version. It is set to be one of the largest courses of its kind in health and care, offering free learning content to thousands of people across the world.

Sign up for *Improvement FUNdamentals* now by e-mailing mooc@nhsiq.nhs.uk, visit www.nhsiq.nhs.uk/improvementfundamentals for further information and use the hashtag #qifriends on Twitter.

New Plans for Youth Mental Health Care

NHS England and the Department of Health have published the [Future in Mind report](#), outlining a blueprint for improving children and adolescent mental health services. The report builds on work that is already underway including delivering access and waiting times for eating disorders; improving access to evidence-based and outcome-focused treatments; and supporting commissioners on developing local capacity and capability.

NHS Mental Health Apps Library Launch

NHS England have launched a ground breaking initiative to help treat depression and anxiety and improve access to psychological therapies by unveiling the first ever directory of NHS-endorsed digital mental health services. The Mental Health Apps Library features online tools, resources and apps that have a proven track record of effectiveness in improving mental health outcomes. It will be accessible through the [NHS Choices platform](#), a website which gathers over 40 million visits per month, 9.7 million of which are to pages on depression; 6 million per month to stress and 9.4 million to anxiety.

Editor

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Simon Stevens talks to GPonline about New Care Models

In an exclusive interview with GPonline, NHS Chief Executive Simon Stevens talks about NHS efficiency, plans to increase primary care funding, and argues that reforms to models of care are not another NHS

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enquiries@somersetccg.nhs.uk

reorganisation. The full interview is available on the [GP online website](#)

The NHS in a Nutshell

In the run up to the 2015 general election, The King's Fund is helping make sense of health and social care with a series of essential facts and figures to explain how the NHS works – see [The NHS in a nutshell](#)
