

Somerset Clinical Commissioning Group

Clinical Leadership to Improve Health

April/May 2015 - Newsletter Issue 41

In This Issue

- [Editorial](#)
- [Somerset CCG Two Year Plan 2015-16](#)
- [Taunton Deane Federation drop-in services](#)
- [West Somerset Living Better Programme](#)
- [Health Connections Mendip Project](#)
- [Tele-dermatology Pilot Update](#)
- [Health Forums](#)
- [Somerset Special Education Needs and Disability \(SEND\) Roadshows](#)
- [What are the parties promising on health and social care?](#)

Editorial - What does it mean to be in 'purdah'?

It may come as a surprise to some to know we are currently in a state of 'purdah'. Have you noticed anything different in your workplace? Are your colleagues acting mysteriously or unusually secretively? Has there been any lessening of the flood of incoming emails to your inbox? Probably not.

The word 'purdah' derives from the Persian word 'pardah' which means 'curtain'. Traditionally it is a religious and social practice of female seclusion prevalent among some Muslim communities. But for the last half a century or so, 'purdah' is the term given to the pre-election period, between an announced election and the final election results. During this time central and local government are prevented from making announcements about any new government initiative which could be seen to be advantageous to any parties in the forthcoming election. Breach of this amounts to contravening Section 2 of the Local Government Act 1986 (in case you didn't know!).

Consequently, Somerset CCG is careful to respect this current period of purdah but this does not mean there is any let up in the busy activity in the CCG's offices as staff continue to work on the many projects that support the delivery of the Operational Plan. Arguably one of the most ambitious projects being developed by the CCG at the moment and one which could fundamentally change the way local and national contracting takes place in the NHS is that of 'outcome based commissioning'. The CCG has appointed a partnership of Price Waterhouse Coopers and an organisation called Cobic Solutions Ltd to support our work around this new way of contracting with provider organisations. It is an ambitious programme that requires expertise to develop Somerset as a national commissioning leader and we have linked it directly to the Vanguard project as one cannot develop without the other.

The intention is to discuss outcome based commissioning with federations during the spring visits of the Governing Body, and with member practices at the next quarterly meeting on 1st July before deciding whether or not to proceed with this change at the July Governing Body meeting of the CCG. The potential benefits of this are:

- To incentivise all providers to focus on an outcomes framework that matters to patients by linking part of the contract income to achieving those outcomes
- To increase the focus on prevention by offering a capitated long-term contract
- To facilitate services being more effectively joined up by developing new contractual relationships between commissioners and providers

This is an exciting but complex field and more will be announced on this in the coming months - purdah notwithstanding!

Dr Geoff Sharp - Editor

Somerset CCG's Two Year Plan 2015-16

Last month, the Governing Body received and approved a refreshed [Two Year Plan for 2015 to 2017](#), and this has now been submitted to NHS England. The Plan builds upon the achievements of the Somerset Clinical Commissioning Group and its partners across the whole of Somerset during 2014/15.

Somerset CCG has set itself an ambitious strategy to achieve the shared vision for services over the next five to ten years, and recognises that system transformation requires high levels of collaboration and a will to put patient outcomes above organisational form, while maintaining excellence in quality of care.

The mainstay of Somerset CCG's strategy is transformation through appropriate participation, collaboration, shared vision and aligned working across partners in Somerset. 2015/16 is a critical year for Somerset, as the financial environment in which health and social care organisations find themselves is becoming increasingly challenging.

The CCG considers that testing new models of care and reviewing new contracting mechanisms is a key element of our plans for this year. The refreshed Two Year Plan 2015-17 and the summary 'plan on a page' can be found [on the CCG's website](#)

Taunton Deane Federation Voluntary Drop-in Services

The Taunton Deane Federation of GPs, as part of SPQS, has been working with eight charities to develop drop-in clinics and services within primary care settings in Taunton Deane. Each of the drop-in clinics is open to any resident of the Deane who feels they could benefit from the service, and most of these have now been running for a number of months. So far, a total of 13 new drop-in clinics have been created, providing support for patients and carers of people who have diabetes, Parkinson's, Alzheimer's, suffered strokes, sight loss, mental health issues or who are elderly. Services range from advice on money benefits and housing to chair-based yoga sessions for the over 55s.

The Federation offers the use of primary care sites free of charge to any partner third sector organisation as long as the drop-in clinic is open to all patients in the Deane and is non-profit making. The service is coordinated by Lisa Wallis, Practice Manager at French Weir, who matches practices with third sector providers.

The Federation has a central list of available primary care venues (each practice in the federation has placed a list of its free space and times onto the central register) the Federation will continue looking for new third sector partners and provide free venues as part of its ongoing SPQS commitment.

The plan is for these services to become part the package of support that

will be available to patients as part of their person-centred care planning in the Taunton Symphony care hubs.

If you require any further information on these services please contact [Jonathan Davies](#)

West Somerset Living Better Programme

As part of the CCG's overall strategic vision to encourage communities and individuals to take control of their own health and wellbeing, and experience joined up person centred care, a new and exciting initiative is being launched in West Somerset. Led by Age UK, the West Somerset Living Better Programme is piloting an approach to help build the self-confidence and self-reliance of those people with one or more long term conditions who are socially isolated and/or dependent on health and social care services, or at risk of deteriorating health and have an increasing need for services. This is being done by providing practical support, care co-ordination, and connecting them with people in the community who can support them.

The programme is supported by local health and social care practitioners who are all working together to re-shape our system and establish more joined up provider services around the individual, putting people first and prioritising outcomes over process. The pilot is not looking to put in another layer of organisation but for providers to work in a smarter, sustainable and more collaborative way to improve the quality of life for people with long term conditions and reduce cost to the health and social care system.

For more information please contact [Claire Higdon](#)

Health Connections Mendip



Health Connections Mendip is commissioned by Mendip Federations to provide a peer support and social prescribing service to enable people living in Mendip to improve personal and community resilience. This may be on a one to one or group basis.

Initially trialled in East Mendip the service showed promise in improving the ability of patients to self-manage and there is good evidence at national level to show that this type of support works to increase patients' confidence in managing their own condition. As a result the service has been developed and expanded to cover the whole of Mendip using the Primary Care Collaborative Fund. Further evaluation is now an integral part of the service with indicators such as patient activation measures and impact on GP appointments assessed so that the federations can ensure the service develops dynamically and sustainably as more is understood about local needs.

The service is available to adults who would like non-medical support with health and wellbeing issues, for example self-managing a long term health condition, increasing social connectedness or changing health behaviours. Additionally the service works in local communities to build and promote the third sector, releasing untapped capital.

Services and groups operating within each Mendip area, such as accessible exercise classes and support groups, will be mapped; information about

services can then be given to patients. Where patients indicate an unmet need, the Health Connections team can also help them to set up their own support groups. This has already happened in East Mendip, where stroke, COPD, breast cancer, dementia and macular degeneration support groups, to name but a few, have been established. A Talking Café will run in each area of Mendip, where people can come to chat, make connections and find out about local services.

Health Connectors will also be working one-to-one with patients in GP practices in each Mendip Federation area. As well as listening to patients' health stories and signposting to local services, they can assist patients to set health-related goals that are meaningful to them, and support them to make changes that last.

The service compiles and hosts a web based directory of resources known as Options for Health, also available on Mendip GP desk tops to enable primary care staff to print relevant information or signpost appropriate patients to Health Connections Mendip.

Patients self-refer to the service at:

- www.healthconnectionsmandip.org
- 01373-468368
- mandip.healthconnections@nhs.net

Teams are based within the federation area they serve but are employed on behalf of Mendip practices by Frome Medical Centre.

Professionals wanting more information can use the above contacts details to find out more.

Tele-dermatology pilot - Update

The Tele-dermatology pilot across the Mendip area has now managed approximately 150 patients with over 30 GPs across Mendip sending in their referrals. As we want to have maximum learning from this pilot, we have decided to extend for a further three months to the end of July 2015 and are liaising with the dermatology consultants who review the images to explore whether more conditions can be added to the current inclusion criteria without jeopardising patient safety. We are also welcoming another four practices from outside the Mendip area who have asked to participate in the scheme. This will enable more patients to benefit from rapid access to a secondary care consultant review without a need to travel.

For your information, please contact [Claire Higdon](#)

CCG Health Forums

Health forums have been set up in each Federation area to provide patients and members of the public with the opportunity to engage with commissioners and providers of health care. They meet on a quarterly basis, apart from Central Mendip and South Somerset who meet three times year.

These are not public meetings; however membership is voluntary and is drawn from a range of professionals which includes representatives from acute and community hospitals, GP practice managers, GPs and nurses,

Somerset Partnership NHS Foundation Trust and Somerset CCG.

Local patients are represented by Patient Participation Group Chairs, League of Friends, Healthwatch and local schools and colleges. There is good representation from county, district and town councillors in some health forum areas and Christine Lawrence, Chair of the Somerset Health and Wellbeing Board, attends the West Somerset Health Forum.

On-going consultations are discussed with representatives being invited to give a presentation and answer any questions. All the information gathered is fed back and helps inform the consultation report. Current topics being shared at health forums include: Care.data, the Information Management and Technology Strategy and Somerset Choices.

Over the next quarter health forums will have presentations from Northern Doctors on the new NHS 111 and Out of Hours service, Local Implementation Groups (LIGs) and a demonstration of the new Somerset Choices website. Karen Taylor, the Somerset CCG Head of Patient Safety and Governance, will also be attending meetings to talk about Sign up to Safety.

Health forums have a say in what goes onto the agenda and this includes discussions around local topics. For example, in the Mendip area they are kept up-to-date with the Shepton Mallet Health Campus and the Peer Support Project, led by Jenny Hartnoll. Some hold themed meetings, for example, Bridgwater Bay recently had a meeting around children and young people and North Sedgemoor have talked about dementia.

Health forums are administered by Christine Lincoln, the Patient, Public Experience and Engagement Coordinator at Somerset CCG. If you would like further information about health forums or if you want to share some information with any of them, please email [Christine Lincoln](mailto:Christine.Lincoln@somersetccg.nhs.uk) or phone her on 01935 385020.

Special Education Needs and Disability (SEND) Roadshows

If you are a parent, carer, administrator or supporting children and young people, with a special educational need and/or disability or if you have been searching for information, advice or support about the SEND reforms come along for coffee, cake, chat and hear a presentation at one of our roadshows. A parent carer, young person, independent advisor and SEND training and support officer will let you know what we are doing in Somerset to support 0 to 25 year olds with a special education needs and disability and where you can go to get for further information, advice and support.

Where	When	What time
Canalside, Marsh Lane BridgwaterTA6 6LQ	Wednesday 6 May	11am to 12am repeated at 1pm to 2pm
Orchardleigh Golf Club Frome BA11 2PH	Wednesday 13 May	11am to 12 am repeated at 1pm to 2pm

Editor

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To book your FREE place contact SENDreforms@somerset.gov.uk. See also the [latest SEND newsletter](#)

Contact Us

Please send feedback on this newsletter to:

enquiries@somersetccg.nhs.uk

What are the parties promising on health and social care?

Check out the King's Fund's website which looks at some of [the big questions in health and social care](#) and sets out [the policies and pledges](#) made by the main parties in England.
