

Somerset Clinical Commissioning Group

Clinical Leadership to Improve Health

September 2015 - Newsletter Issue 44

In This Issue

- [Editorial](#)
- [Clinical Service Update – Cancer](#)
- [Care.data Update](#)
- [Dermatology update](#)
- [Orthopaedic update](#)
- [Mindful Emotion coaching](#)
- [Neurological Rehabilitation Services](#)
- [Fertility eligibility criteria – views sought](#)
- [Changes in Adult Social Care](#)
- [Independent Living Teams – new arrangements](#)
- [Somerset micro-enterprise project](#)
- [Adopt-a-path Scheme](#)
- [Improving young people’s mental health services](#)
- [COG briefing](#)

Editorial - Federations to Change (to Commissioning Localities)

Since the inception of Somerset CCG in April 2013, the membership of its 75 member practices has been organised through nine Federations. These geographical groupings of GP practices have allowed local GPs to be involved in commissioning work and have served us all well with the development of local relationships between practices and also with their communities and allowed local intelligence to inform commissioning decisions.

However it has become increasingly apparent that outside Somerset the term ‘Federation’ applies to groupings of GP practices as providers of services through both formal arrangements eg LLPs (limited liability partnerships), and informal arrangements where practices agree to share services delivered to patients. It has therefore been proposed that the term ‘Federation’ is no longer used to refer to our nine member practice groups but as from 1st October 2015 they are in future referred to as ‘Commissioning Localities’.

In parallel with this change and in recognition of the need to ensure sustainability and development of general practices in Somerset, the CCG is proposing (via this month’s [Somerset Primary Care Joint Committee](#)), under its legal duty to ‘support the improvement in the quality of primary care’, to provide assistance to practices to develop as provider organisations as is happening up and down the country. This will take the form of supporting practices to access skills and expertise to progress local collaborative work whether this be at an informal level or for practices to form legal entities to deliver a wider range of services to their population. This proposal has the support of Somerset’s Local Medical Committee which is developing a ‘Provider Support Unit’ to facilitate practices forming practice collaborations which will in future be termed ‘Provider Federations’.

A further boost to the future of primary care in Somerset came with little fanfare but of great significance with a letter sent to all GP practices from the heads of the Local Area Team of NHS England and Somerset CCG announcing the CCG’s commitment to ensure investment in primary care over the next five years. The letter committed to ensure £5M was invested in Somerset primary care to improve services for patients. This constitutes a major positive signal for primary care in Somerset and we must ensure every pound spent is used as wisely as possible for the benefit of our communities.

Dr Geoff Sharp - Editor

Somerset CCG - Clinical Service Updates

The following is the first in a series of regular items that will focus on individual clinical service areas. These will highlight current issues and developments in each clinical service area and provide an update on Somerset CCG's position.

CLINICAL SERVICE UPDATES – CANCER

Two key documents about Cancer have been published this summer:

1. The Cancer Strategy

Last month, the Independent Cancer Taskforce published its recommendations for a new five-year cancer strategy for England. The Strategy provides the opportunity to drive changes in the treatment, support and care for people living with cancer.

The recommendations cover every area of cancer care in England, including a strong emphasis on improving people's experiences of care, treatment and support, and on supporting people living with and beyond cancer, including at the end of life. It recommends NHS England pilots the role of cancer nurses in GP practices and incentivises GPs to assess the risk of symptoms which could be cancer and establish processes to ensure safety-netting of patients. You can read the [full set of recommendations here](#).

Somerset CCG has an established programme of practice nurse development and has resources to support the development of nurse cancer leads in every practice. Practice nurse cancer leads should have a vital role in managing cancer as a long-term condition and act as a catalyst for the practice whilst working collaboratively to improve integrated care. If you would like to know more about this project please contact Ruth Cook ruth.h.cook@outlook.com or Sarah Spencer sarah.harbour@icloud.com Macmillan Practice Nurse Leads for Somerset.

2. NICE Guidance Suspected Cancer: recognition and referral

The new guidance has been developed using primary care data and lowers the risk threshold for investigation to 5% from 3%. [You can read the full guideline here](#). GPs are expected to diagnose cancers in primary care, referring to secondary care for confirmation. There is emphasis on combination of symptoms that give rise to higher risk e.g cough AND weight loss. There is a range of recommended actions including further clinical assessment by GP and direct access to primary care investigations.

The CCG is working closely with stakeholders to develop new cancer pathways for each tumour site incorporating the new guidance. An integrated lung cancer pathway will be piloted in CLICK (Chard, Crewkerne and Ilminster) Federation in the autumn and new breast referral pathways will be finalised in the next few months.

We would like to stop using fax machines to send suspected cancer referrals and are working with GP practices towards 100% electronic e-referrals. We are also working with Trusts to develop direct booking of 2ww (two week wait) appointments via choose and book which will help reduce the significant problem of patients not attending or being uncontactable within target times.

If you have any questions on cancer services or would like to be involved in these developments please contact [Dr Amelia.Randle@somersetccg.nhs.uk](mailto:Dr.Amelia.Randle@somersetccg.nhs.uk),

Care.data Update

In a [recent speech](#), Jeremy Hunt, the Secretary of State for Health, outlined his vision for the future use of technology across NHS.

Since then he has asked Dame Fiona Caldicott (the Data Guardian for England) to provide advice on the wording for a new model of patient consent and 'opt-outs'. Any recommendations from Dame Fiona's review may need to be incorporated into the patient information which is being developed as part of the Somerset care.data pathfinder pilot.

Somerset CCG is one of four care.data pathfinder pilot sites supporting NHS England with the preparation of patient and GP Practice information which will eventually be used to test care.data process. The care.data programme is a national initiative which hopes to eventually use coded patient data, extracted from their GP and hospital medical records, to improve the health of the nation.

For more information contact Allison.Nation@somersetccg.nhs.uk

Somerset Dermatology Update

Dermatology services across Somerset are under extreme pressure as a result of significant growth in urgent cancer referrals due to the national cancer campaign and reductions in capacity in a specialty with severe national recruitment challenges.

Action was taken to secure additional capacity within the acute trusts where possible; this was very challenging given the recruitment difficulties and is insufficient to meet the increasing demands on the service. The Clinical Commissioning Group has secured additional capacity with GPwSIs (GPs with special interests).

Workshops have been held with the dermatology GPwSIs, Somerset Primary Healthcare and secondary care clinicians and managers from Yeovil District Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, Taunton and Somerset NHS Foundation Trust and Royal Devon and Exeter NHS Foundation Trust. As a result of the workshops and discussions, an enhanced clinically led dermatology vision has emerged:

- The Somerset Dermatology Service will be an integrated service encompassing all aspects of care for patients with skin problems to ensure that they are seen in the most appropriate setting with a strong focus on prevention. The service will also support people to self-manage long term skin problems by equipping them with the information and education they require to enable them to feel confident to do this
- It will promote early diagnosis of skin cancer and treatment for all conditions in a timely way
- There will be education and training within primary care to upskill the workforce to improve quality and reduce variation within primary care
- There will be access to advice and guidance from specialist teams readily available. GPwSIs, consultants and specialist nurses will work closely together to ensure that wherever possible patient's needs are met on the first appointment, using a "one stop shop" model
- IT systems between all health professionals will allow for seamless

transfer of information

- All national targets will be met, and local outcome measures will be co-created by the commissioner and provider

Steering group meeting to progress the countywide dermatology solution will be held in mid-September 2015, where workstreams will be agreed. The aim is to launch a sustainable Somerset Dermatology Service in April 2016.

For more information contact Linda.Bickerton@somersetccg.nhs.uk

Somerset Orthopaedic Update

Throughout the past 18 months the CCG has undertaken a considerable amount of collaborative work with providers involved in the Musculoskeletal / Orthopaedic Pathway. The work has involved a full Clinical Review in order to determine the best pathway and the formation of a number of recommendations at all stages.

The work has incorporated a high level of commitment from all providers and has been fully supported and directed by lead clinicians. The Orthopaedic Briefing supported by the Clinical Operations Group outlined recommendations to endeavour to improve and shorten the length of the pathway; these recommendations are being progressed via task and finish groups.

Initially it has been agreed to commence work at the 'front end' of the pathway and the groups include:

- Self-management and use of Somerset Choices
- Review of information given to patients at all stages in their pathway
- Review of the use of joint injections in primary care
- Streamlining the use of orthopaedic advice and guidance provided by Interface West

The Orthopaedic Implementation Group is also working with the Intensive Support Team (IST) to undertake a review of the overall orthopaedic capacity available within the interface and surgical providers in Somerset.

A full update is planned to be provided to the Clinical Operations Group in October.

For more information contact Sally.Bucksey@somersetccg.nhs.uk

Improving Mental Health Outcomes for Young People

Public Health, Somerset County Council has commissioned [EHCAP and Bath Spa University](#) to train 100 of the children and young people's services staff across the county to understand and cascade the principles of Mindful Emotion Coaching within their organisations.

A minimum of 60% of the champions we are training are schools based and we also have [Get Set](#), Social Care, CAMHS, voluntary sector, youth workers, social housing and primary care involved. The overarching outcome we are working toward is to ensure that all people who work regularly with children and young people are well equipped to understand and respond

appropriately to their emotional needs.

What impact might this project have?

A growing research base at Bath Spa University and from around the world, such as the [Tuning into Kids programme in Australia](#), demonstrates the positive impact of Mindful Emotion Coaching on children's social development, progress and emotional health. [Professor John Gottman's research](#) has shown that emotion coached children:

- Achieve more academically in school
- Are more popular
- Have fewer behavioural problems
- Are more emotionally stable
- Are more resilient

The Project is working with a network of supportive adults, who together can help to empower children and young people to build a repertoire of internal and external socio-emotional regulatory skills. It is also helping to address the concern about emotional health and wellbeing highlighted by the recent [Somerset Children and Young People Survey \(SCYPS\)](#). The work resonates with the recent report by Public Health England (2014) which showed that:

- Pupils with better health and wellbeing are likely to achieve better academically
- Effective social and emotional competencies are associated with greater health and wellbeing, and better achievement
- The culture, ethos and environment of a school influences the health and wellbeing of pupils and their readiness to learn

To find out more contact Dr Sarah Temple by email sarah@ehcap.co.uk or browse the links on www.emotioncoaching.co.uk

Neurological-rehabilitation Services Move to Dene Barton

An excellent example of joint working between Somerset CCG, Somerset Partnership NHS Foundation Trust and Musgrove Park Hospital has seen the neuro-rehab service provided onsite at Musgrove Park Hospital in Triscombe ward, moved to Dene Barton Community Hospital in Cotford St Luke.

Although the environment on Triscombe ward has been suitable for patients needing a higher level of medical care, it was far from ideal for neuro rehabilitation as it does not provide the right environment needed to support the rehabilitation treatment this group of patients needs, such as more intensive therapy treatment, getting back out into the community to go shopping, or support to do day-to-day tasks such as prepare food and drinks for themselves and get them ready for integrating back into their families and the community.

Some time ago it was recognised that a new location was needed to provide neuro rehabilitation facilities in a different location and work has been ongoing to find the best location to give patients the care they need. Lydeard Ward in Dene Barton Community Hospital provides the space, facilities and surroundings to deliver excellent care and will also potentially provide the opportunity to repatriate some patients currently being cared for outside of the county in the future.

For more information contact Jonathan.Guy@somersetccg.nhs.uk

Somerset CCG Seeking Views on Fertility Eligibility Criteria

Somerset CCG will be seeking views on proposals to amend the eligibility criteria for couples seeking fertility treatment.

Somerset CCG uses eligibility criteria originally developed by the National Institute for Care and Clinical Excellence (NICE) and funds two cycles of IVF treatment to infertile couples. These guidelines were updated in February 2013 to include three new recommendations which were significantly different from earlier guidance.

Somerset CCG is considering introducing the recommendation to cut the length of time infertile couples must wait before they can ask for IVF treatment from three to two years. There is little increased chance of a pregnancy from this extra wait and inevitably the couple are then older, but it would increase CCG spending on fertility treatment.

However, with no additional funding available to Somerset CCG to meet this extra cost, the increase could be contained if the number of IVF treatment cycles were reduced from two to one. The reduction of treatment cycles would bring Somerset CCG's IVF eligibility criteria into alignment with the majority of clinical commissioning groups in the South West.

The CCG Governing Body will discuss proposals to amend the eligibility criteria for couples seeking fertility treatment at the Board Meeting on 17 September and then members of the public will be able to have their say via a questionnaire to be set up on Survey Monkey. Full details will be available on the website at www.somersetccg.nhs.uk/get-involved/consultations-and-surveys/

For more information contact Jill.Downey@somersetccg.nhs.uk

Changes in Adult Social Care in Somerset

The way people access adult social care services in Somerset is changing. From September all referrals to adult social care services, including safeguarding concerns, should be made to Somerset Direct on **0300 123 2224**. Somerset Direct will discuss with the individual their circumstances and suggest self-help actions and signpost them to community resources. When this is not sufficient to meet the person's needs they will be offered an appointment in a new local hub to meet with a member of adult social care.

Somerset County Council is setting up the new local hubs in the centre of communities where people can access adult social care services and support. The hubs will allow members of the adult social care team to see more people in one place, giving people the advice they need quickly and close to where they live.

The local hubs are being set up in community centres, town halls and in venues where community activities are already thriving. The first five hubs will be set up in September at the following locations and more will open in

the coming months:

- Priorswood Community Centre in Taunton
- Victoria Park Community Centre in Bridgwater
- Wells Town Hall in Wells
- Henhayes Community Centre in Crewkerne
- West Somerset hub TBC

Somerset Direct and the local hubs will be developed over the coming months to make sure the service is supporting people appropriately.

For details contact Somerset County Council's Adults Transformation team at adultstransformation@somerset.gov.uk

New arrangements for Independent Living Teams from September

Somerset County Council and Somerset Partnership NHS Foundation Trust have replaced Independent Living Teams with new arrangements from 1 September 2015. The new arrangements still maintain strong joint working between health and social care professionals already developed through Independent Living Teams, but will also allow a quicker response and better prioritisation for people with social care needs in accordance with the Care Act.

The new arrangements include a 'Health Interface Service' being established by the County Council to improve assessment and support planning for people in hospital so they can be discharged at the right time and with the right services. As it develops, the Health Interface Service will also help to avoid unnecessary admissions to hospitals.

Independent Living Teams continued to accept referrals up to and including 31 August 2015. Everyone who is already receiving a service or has been referred to an Independent Living Team and is waiting for a service will have been carried forward into the new arrangements on 1 September 2015. From that date, separate referrals for health or social care services will be required according to the primary need of the person concerned. People who require both types of service should be referred to both.

Referrals for adult social care services, including all safeguarding alerts, can be made via telephone call to Somerset Direct on **0300 123 2224**.

Referrals for health based community rehabilitation services can be made via telephone call **0300 323 0028** (East) or **0300 323 0029** (West).

For details contact Somerset County Council's Adults Transformation team at adultstransformation@somerset.gov.uk

Somerset Micro-enterprise Project

Delivered in partnership by Somerset County Council and Community Catalysts, the [Somerset Micro-enterprise Project](#) offers free support, advice and information to people who have an idea for a small local service (called a micro-enterprise) that supports or cares for people in their community.

To find out more about how the project is working read these [community enterprise stories](#). For more information contact Rhys Davies, Somerset Micro-enterprise Co-ordinator by phone on **07595 411945** or by email: rhys.davies@communitycatalysts.co.uk

Adopt-a-Path Scheme

Somerset County Council's rights of way team is encouraging people who regularly use rights of way in Somerset to help keep routes open and accessible under a new 'adopt-a-path' scheme.

Adopting a path is a great way to get out and about, improve your all round health, discover your local public rights of way network, and at the same time help to keep a path clear and easy to use for your local community.

If you would like a stock of leaflets or are in a position where you are able to encourage others to get involved and would like more information, then please email ROWVolunteers@somerset.gov.uk or phone 0300 123 2224. You can find out more about volunteering opportunities with the Council online at www.somerset.gov.uk/get-involved/volunteering/volunteering

Improving Young People's Mental Health Services

NHS England has launched the first stage of new programme to improve young people's mental health services. £30m of funding has been distributed to local areas for eating disorder services as part of the [first stage of a new programme](#) to improve children and young people's mental health and wellbeing. The money is to develop community-based eating disorder services with a new standard so patients are seen within four weeks or one week for urgent cases by 2020.

COG Briefings

Brief updates on key decisions made and issues raised at meetings of the Somerset CCG Clinical Operations Group are now available to download from our website: www.somersetccg.nhs.uk/about-us/clinical-operations-group/

Editor

Dr Geoff Sharp

E-mail:

geoff.sharp@somersetccg.nhs.uk

Contact Us

Please send feedback on this newsletter to:

enquiries@somersetccg.nhs.uk