

Somerset Clinical Commissioning Group

Clinical Leadership to Improve Health

November 2015 - Newsletter Issue 46

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Editorial - When is a surplus not a surplus?

Corporate financial reporting is complex but necessary. This is not just true for private businesses but applies equally to all NHS Bodies. Somerset Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), as with all CCG's in the country, is funded from taxation income received by the Treasury and as such has to account for its allocated funding from Government (£705m in 2015/16) in great detail. The CCG is also required by law to set a balanced budget each year that has to be signed off by NHS England. The CCG's Governing Body receives a financial report at each monthly meeting and has to be assured the expenditure is on track to meet the CCG's legal obligations. These reports are available on the CCG's website (www.somersetccg.nhs.uk).

One of the requirements of all CCGs is to plan to deliver an end of year 'surplus' of 1% of its operating allocation of funds, or the same as the previous year's surplus, whichever is the greater. For the current year this amounts to £7.5m. This requirement has been in place since the days of primary care trusts (PCT) and before. Technically this surplus is returned to NHS England at the end of the financial year but on the first day of the following year it is made available to the CCG as part of its baseline funding to form a source of funds for that year's surplus. So effectively the surplus is a reserve that can only be spent in exceptional circumstances with NHS England approval. It is not surprising when viewed from outside the existence of having a 'surplus' of £7.5m gives the false impression that the CCG has this as money available and chooses to withhold it from funding services. However, this 'surplus' is not a matter of being generated from a squeeze on costs but is a statutorily required aspect of the CCG's performance every year.

In previous years in Somerset both the CCG and its predecessor organisation, NHS Somerset PCT, have always met their financial obligations and targets including the 1% operating surplus. However at the start of the current financial year (2015/16) the CCG, for the first time, requested approval from NHS England to use some of this 'surplus' to support reducing the number of patients waiting more than 18 weeks for treatment at both Taunton and Yeovil. NHS England approved the use of £1 million for this purpose on condition the full surplus is re-established in 2016/17. So although the CCG is expecting to deliver a surplus of £6.5m this year – this actually represents an in-year financial deficit of £1 million.

This exceptional situation is a sign of the current times of unprecedented financial pressures in the NHS. Somerset CCG is responding to this by developing its flagship 'Somerset Together' programme, based on outcomes based commissioning, in partnership with the Local Authority. This programme will not solve the ever growing financial pressures in health and social care, although it is expected to make a contribution, but crucially it is expected to improve the outcomes and experiences of using health and care services in Somerset.

Clinical Services Update - Dementia

Improving dementia care is a priority for the NHS both nationally and locally in Somerset. There is a national drive to increase dementia rates so that more patients can benefit from better care. This diagnosis is important for all health and social care workers to consider when seeing people in their day to day practice. Evidence shows that timely diagnosis improves patient outcomes and may also reduce their use of urgent services, including primary care and social services.

A linked priority both nationally and locally is to review and, where appropriate, reduce use of antipsychotic medications in patients with dementia. Use of these drugs should always be a treatment of last resort and should be reviewed regularly as we know that the drugs are known to hasten cognitive decline and increase mortality / morbidity. The Medicines Management team will be happy to advise practices.

In both these areas, Somerset CCG has made improvements. Our current dementia diagnosis rate is 61.1% against a target of 66% of those living with dementia. We have a low prescribing rate of anti-psychotics in dementia patients which has been achieved by the efforts of GPs and the support from the CCG Medicines Management team.

Through funding from the Deanery, we have been able to secure the help of Dr Emma Ramsay, a GP registrar at Blackbrook Surgery in Taunton who will be working on a dementia project over the next year to inform good practice in dementia care. A small joint team from the CCG and local authority will shortly be developing refreshed Dementia priorities and action plan which will be shared with colleagues across the system. It is planned to arrange a large system-wide Dementia Education event in the early spring.

If you would like to invite a member of the dementia team to talk to your team or locality, please contact [Lydia Woodward](#) or the CCG's clinical dementia lead [Dr Iain Phillips](#)

Primary Care Co-Commissioning Update

You may remember that on the 1st April 2015 Somerset CCG took an increased role in the commissioning of GP services with NHS England through a Joint Commissioning model.

In Somerset, NHS England and Somerset CCG formed a primary care joint committee. Drs Iain Phillips and John Trepess are the Somerset GP representatives on the committee and we also have Dr Chris Campbell, a Devon GP, as an external clinical member. The committee is chaired by David Bell, a Non-Executive Director of the CCG.

Some of the benefits of joint commissioning have been:

- A stronger voice and a closer planning relationship with NHS England, which has enabled us to keep open surgeries which might otherwise have closed.
- Agreement to invest £5m of CCG funds in primary care over the next five years, one of the biggest CCG investments in primary care in the country.

- A Somerset-specific approach to reviewing Personal Medical Services (PMS) contracts, offering stability and fairness in practice funding.
- Increased clinical leadership and public involvement in primary care commissioning, enabling better local decision making.

NHS England is strongly encouraging CCGs operating under the joint commissioning models to consider applying for full delegation of primary care commissioning responsibilities. Somerset CCG will not be applying for full delegation this year, but recognises that there is an increasing role for the CCG in primary care matters.

For further information contact [Michael Bainbridge](#)

Somerset Picks up Two Awards at Annual Eclipse Conference

Somerset CCG's Medicines Management Team regularly use the 'Eclipse Live' software system to improve the quality and safety of our prescribing. At the Annual Eclipse Conference held at Wyboston Lakes, St Neots, Cambridgeshire on 5 November we were pleased to receive two awards in competition with 54 other CCGs. The awards, picked up by Steve Moore (pictured), were for 'Optimal monitoring of high risk medications: methotrexate' and 'Most cost effective utilisation of respiratory medicines'.



A big thank you to all prescribers in Somerset who made this possible, and to the prescribing support staff for supporting these initiatives so enthusiastically.

For more information contact [Shaun Green](#)

Somerset Bone Health and Falls Pathways

Two new pathways in the Somerset Pathway Navigator App have been launched at an event on 20 October 2015, attended by more than 50 multidisciplinary clinical and non-clinic staff from a wide range of organisations:

- **Bone Health** - with three sections (At risk of osteoporosis; After Fracture; End of Life); plus a whole-life range of resources and signposting to support improved self-care and prevention.
- **Falls** – a pathway has been documented taking account of the recent changes in rehabilitation and adult social care provision.

Fracture Liaison Services (FLS) are in the process of being implemented: a brand new service in Taunton and enhanced services in other Somerset serving acute trusts and are aimed at identifying people who have had a 'fragility' fracture due to osteoporosis. FLS staff will virtually assess people and request bone density scans and/or make recommendations to GPs for starting treatment to prevent further fractures/bone fragility. In line with new national standards for FLS, the new services will also follow up these people within 4 and 12 months to see if they are on treatment, after which follow up would form part of the normal primary care annual review.

Use of a Falls Risk Assessment Tool (FRAT) is recommended by NICE wherever falls is a concern – and an enhanced version has been created for use 'in Somerset' (FRATis) which provides additional information and has suggested next steps depending on the answers to the questions. The FRATis is suitable for anyone to complete and it will be downloadable from the [Somerset CCG website](http://www.SomersetCCG.org.uk) and via www.SomersetChoices.org.uk

To view the agenda and multidisciplinary presentations from the recent full day launch event please follow this link:

<https://app.box.com/s/y6f1sg4o3l3adkp1q1tcuvdd7i3kdeho>

For more information please contact [Dr Mike Pearce](#) or [Lydia Woodward](#)

Five Year Forward View - One Year On

The NHS [Five Year Forward View](#) was published a year ago last month. It set out a shared view of the challenges ahead and the choices we face about the kind of health and care service we want in 2020. Working with people and their communities, clinicians, local government and think tanks, NHS England tapped into an overwhelming consensus on the need for change, and a shared ambition for the future.

Since the publication of the Five Year Forward View, local and national bodies have come together to lay the foundations for its vision for 2020 of better health and wellbeing; improved and redesigned care; and financial sustainability. Follow the link to see an update which gives a snapshot of the [progress made in delivering the Five Year Forward View to date](#). NHS Employers have also produced some useful resources for NHS staff including [a presentation](#) and [infographic](#).

One Number and Seven Hubs - for all Adult Social Care Queries

Since September all referrals to Adult Social Care services (except for hospital in-patients) should be made to Somerset Direct on **0300 123 2224**. This includes all Safeguarding concerns.

Somerset Direct will talk to the person about their individual circumstances and needs and may suggest self-help actions and signpost them to community resources if appropriate. If they need to meet with someone for a more in-depth discussion, they are likely to be offered an appointment in a local hub.

Local hubs are places where people can access Adult Social Care services and support. They are being set up in communities such as town halls, libraries and community centres and venues where community activities are already thriving. The hubs will enable people to be seen sooner and to be given the advice and assistance they need close to where they live.

Some people will need immediate help that cannot wait until they can be seen in a hub. A team of social workers, occupational therapists and adult social care workers are now based in the offices with Somerset Direct and can provide an immediate response to urgent needs.

During this transition to a new way of working it may take a little longer for

your call to be answered. The Somerset Direct team is working hard to answer calls as quickly as possible. Your patience and understanding during this time would be appreciated. Callers are asked to continue to select the 'Adults Social Care' option from the automated menu, not the 'General' option.

Seven hubs are now open and more will be coming soon.

- Priorswood Community Centre in Taunton
- Victoria Park Community Centre in Bridgwater
- Wells Town Hall in Wells
- Henhayes Community Centre in Crewkerne
- Seahorse Centre in Minehead
- WHERE Centre in Wellington
- Balsam Centre in Wincanton

This new way of working and creation of local hubs will be developed and reviewed over the coming months to make sure the service is supporting people appropriately.

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

Somerset's Electronic Prescription Service

The Electronic Prescription Service (EPS) enables prescribers to send prescriptions electronically to a dispenser of the patient's choice. This makes the prescribing and dispensing process more efficient and convenient for patients and staff and gives patients increased freedom of choice and reduced waiting times in the pharmacy.

In Somerset, 44 sites are now live, with recent go-lives seen at:

Hendford Lodge Medical Centre (9/9)
Millbrook Surgery (15/9)
East Quay Medical Centre (12/10)
Cranleigh Gardens Medical Centre (14/10)

Dates are booked for a further two sites during November.

Current utilisation rates within Somerset are high with those practices live having an average EPSr2 usage of around 54%.

This leaves 14 non-dispensing sites and 17 dispensing sites to be activated. The aim is to have all sites live by 31 March 2016.

For more information contact [Rachael Harding](#)

Macmillan and Cancer Research UK Support for GP Practices

Macmillan and Cancer Research UK are working collaboratively to provide support to GP practices and health professionals to help improve cancer prevention, early diagnosis and cancer outcomes. The project aims to engage with each practice within Somerset CCG, to support practices to adopt changes to achieve these outcomes. The project objectives are

adapted to take into account local need, priorities and to complement prior and existing activity.

The Macmillan lead cancer nurses and the Cancer Research UK Facilitator will work within primary care to identify interested practice nurses, provide support and offer structured education. To arrange a visit or more information: contact ruth.cook1@somersetccg.nhs.uk, sarah.spencer1@somersetccg.nhs.uk, or Victoria.wright@cancer.org.uk

World Antibiotic Awareness Week

Every year 18th November marks the European Antibiotic Awareness day (EAAD), a public health initiative which aims to encourage the safe and prudent use of antibiotics by healthcare professionals and the public alike: ecdc.europa.eu/en/eaad/Pages/Home.aspx

This year for the first time during the week 16th to 22nd November the World Health Organization led a global campaign, World Antibiotic Awareness Week: '*Antibiotics: Handle with Care*' - more information available at: www.who.int/mediacentre/events/2015/world-antibiotic-awareness-week/event/en/

The theme of the campaign, Antibiotics: Handle with Care, reflects the overarching message that antibiotics are a precious resource and should be preserved. They should be used to treat bacterial infections, only when prescribed by a certified health professional. Antibiotics should never be shared and the full course of treatment should be completed – not saved for the future unless directed by a doctor.

It's not too late to do your bit: pledge as a Public Health England Antibiotic Guardian by registering online at antibioticguardian.com/

If you require further information please contact the Medicines Management Team on 01935 384123 or email [Donna Yell](mailto:Donna.Yell)

New Chief Executive for Somerset Partnership NHS Foundation Trust

Somerset Partnership NHS Foundation Trust has [announced the appointment of Dr Nick Broughton as the new Chief Executive](#) to replace Edward Colgan who leaves at the end of 2015.

Dr Broughton is currently Medical Director at West London Mental Health Trust, one of the largest specialist mental health trusts in the country. Alongside this role he is a Director for Imperial College Health Partners, a partnership between the academic and health communities in North West London, aimed at improving patient health by spreading best practice research across a range of health and social care areas.

Dr Broughton has more than 15 years' experience as a Consultant in Forensic Psychiatry. He is a Fellow of the Royal College of Psychiatrists and is a Trustee of the Charlie Waller Memorial Trust, a charity dedicated to helping young people look after their mental wellbeing.

Dr Broughton hopes to start his new position in early February 2016.

For more information contact [Victoria Eld](#), Head of Communications at Somerset Partnership NHS Foundation Trust.

Editor

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Contact Us

Please send feedback on this newsletter to:
enquiries@somersetccg.nhs.uk

Don't Give Fraudsters a Merry Christmas

In the countdown to Christmas millions of people will go online to buy presents, search for holidays, book tickets for a big gig or send an electronic Christmas card. What many do not realise is the hidden threat we now face from criminals online.

The City of London Police, which is the National Policing Lead for Fraud, and supported by Get Safe Online, The Home Office, Crimestoppers, National Trading Standards and Victim Support is running 'The 12 online frauds of Christmas' campaign. [Download 'The 12 online frauds of Christmas' leaflet](#) for top tips on how to surf and shop safely, which will help ensure that you enjoy a very merry Christmas and not the criminals.

Genuine concerns about fraud, bribery or corruption affecting the NHS can be raised confidentially with Andy Knight on 01305 361129 or by email: andyknight@nhs.net and on the NHS Protect fraud reporting line 0800 028 40 60 or online www.reportnhsfraud.nhs.uk
