



Outcomes-based commissioning... A new way to get better value health and social care in Somerset

The population of Somerset is growing and people are living longer. This will place increasing pressure on the resources of the NHS and Social Care and we need to find new ways to help people stay healthier longer and live independent, purposeful lives.

Most healthcare in Somerset is commissioned by the Somerset Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), and the County Council is responsible for Social Care. The Council and the CCG are working together on a project to use 'outcome-based commissioning' as a new way for understanding and providing health and social care services.

The purpose of this document is to provide you with some information about the new approach of 'outcomes-based commissioning'.

What is an outcome?

An '**outcome**' is the result of care, help or assistance, as experienced by people using the services. There are three types of outcomes related to health and social care:

1. Experience of care (for example, were you treated with dignity and respect?)
2. Improvement in your health (for example, has your blood pressure reduced over time?)
3. The ability to live a normal productive life, and do the things that you want to do (for example, can you get to the shops on your own?)

What is outcomes-based commissioning?

Somerset CCG and Somerset County Council are responsible for understanding, buying and then measuring the quality of health and social care services for local people in Somerset. They are called 'commissioners'. Commissioners pay 'providers' such as hospitals or homecare agencies to deliver services to local people. Commissioners normally pay for care based on the number of people seen or the hours delivered. Traditionally they have made assumptions about the types of services local people need.

Somerset commissioners are now thinking about changing how they pay for care. They would like to reward providers for delivering the outcomes that people need and want, rather than paying them based on the number of people cared for, or hours of delivery provided.

This means that your experience of health and social care should be more joined up and better focused on your needs, providers are held to account for the outcomes delivered and best use is made of health and social care budgets.

This is called '**outcomes-based commissioning**'.

What does this mean for me?

The main thing to know is that nothing will immediately change for you or your health and social care team. Commissioners are exploring this new way of buying services and how they might take this approach forward. They will keep you informed about the decision making process along the way and will work with the public, patients and carers, if it is decided to progress further with this approach.

The services belong to Somerset and it is important that you understand the thinking of the health and social care leaders so that you have an opportunity to influence the future.

If you have any questions or would like further information about this project please contact:

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