**Agenda Item:**

**Report to:** Primary Care Commissioning Committee

**Date of meeting:** 14/12/2021

**Date paper distributed:** Click or tap to enter a date.

**Subject:** NHS England Update Report

**Presented by:** Helen Phillips, Head of Primary Care, NHS England

**Previously distributed to:** N/A

**STATUS OF THE REPORT *(auto check relevant box****)*

**Decision required**

**For Discussion to give Assurance**  *(Only if requested by Committee member prior to meeting)*

**For Information**

**Report Exempt from Public Disclosure**   No  Yes

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| **PURPOSE OF REPORT:** | This report will update the Primary Care Commissioning Committee on primary care medical matters, including contract issues, within North East Lincolnshire and provide national updates around primary medical care. |
| **Recommendations:** | **Recommendations**  The Primary Care Commissioning Committee is being asked to note the contents of the NHS England Update |
| **Clinical Engagement** | N / A |
| **Patient/Public Engagement** | N / A |
| **Committee Process and Assurance:** | The Primary Care Commissioning Committee are responsible for the information within this report. |

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| **Link to CCG’s Priorities** | * Sustainable services * Empowering people |  | * Supporting communities * Fit for purpose organisation |  |
| **Are there any specific and/or overt risks relating to one or more of the following areas?** | * Legal * Finance * Quality * Equality analysis (and Due Regard Duty) |  | * Data protection * Performance * Other |  |

1. **Items for noting**
   1. **Improving Access for Patients and Support for General Practice**

[BW999-our-plan-for-improving-access-and-supporting-general-practice-oct-21.pdf (england.nhs.uk)](https://www.england.nhs.uk/coronavirus/wp-content/uploads/sites/52/2021/10/BW999-our-plan-for-improving-access-and-supporting-general-practice-oct-21.pdf)

This document was published on 14th October with access to general practice being an essential part of winter plans. The document describes several further actions that now need to be taken by the NHS, Government and partner organisations, to support general practice and ensure it has the support, technology and time to deliver the right care for patients in the right way and at the right time to improve access including face-to-face appointments with GPs.

They include steps to:

1. increase and optimise capacity
2. address variation and encourage good practice and
3. improve communication with the public, including tackling abuse and violence against NHS staff

For the five months November to March, a new £250m Winter Access Fund will help patients with urgent care needs to get seen when they need to, on the same day, taking account of their preferences, instead of going to hospital.

The two main uses of the fund will be:

1. to drive improved access to urgent, same day primary care, ideally from patients’ own general practice service, by increasing capacity and GP appointment numbers achieved at practice or PCN level, or in combination
2. to increase the resilience of the NHS urgent care system during winter, by expanding same day urgent care capacity, through other services in any primary and community settings
   1. **Delegation of Primary Care**

With the dissolution of CCGs, Integrated Care Systems (ICSs) will be required to assume delegated responsibility for the commissioning and contract management of primary care medical services from 1st April 2022. ICSs are also required to develop plans to assume delegated responsibility for the commissioning and contract management of community pharmacy (including Dispensing Doctors), dental services and community optometry services.

To support this the ICS had to submit, by 24th September 2021, expressions of interest via the completion of a pre-delegation assessment framework for each of the contractor groups reflecting the intentions of the ICS. NHSE/I worked with CCGs to develop a plan; the dates submitted for assuming delegated responsibility for commissioning and contract management were:

* Primary Medical Services from 1st April 2022
* Dental Services from 1st April 2023 and in shadow form from 1st October 2022
* Community Optometry from 1st April 2023 and in shadow form from 1st October 2022
* Community Pharmacy from 1st April 2023 and in shadow form from 1st October 2022
  1. **Primary Care Flexible Staff Pools**

The primary care flexible staff pool arrangements reflect the People Plan commitment to establish GP banks, and replaces the Locum Support Scheme commitment made in ‘[Update to the GP Contract Agreement 2020/21-2023/24](https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/update-to-the-gp-contract-agreement-v2-updated.pdf)’.

The ambition is for these flexible staff pools to support groups of primary care networks (PCNs), increase capacity in general practice and create a new offer for local GPs wanting to work flexibly. <https://www.england.nhs.uk/gp/the-best-place-to-work/primary-care-flexible-staff-pools/>

The ICS undertook a procurement exercise using the NHS England framework following which a contract was awarded to a supplier called Lantum. A 2 year agreement has been put in place using System Development Funding and is currently being mobilized, which will provide all interested Practices in Humber, Coast and Vale with access to the system.

* 1. **Covid Vaccination**

In response to phase 3 of the vaccination program, NHSEI have requested additional expressions of interest from community Pharmacies across North East Lincolnshire to support with the program.

Please see below - JCVI advice in response to the emergence of the B. 1. 1.529 (Omicron) variant: next steps for deployment



**The Committee is asked to note the updates**