

This briefing note for members highlights some national and local developments to support integrated care for people locally.

Members will be aware of national and local ambitions to move towards fully integrated health and care services and the long history of integration and its benefits for people locally.

A recent announcement from the Prime Minister to invest £20bn extra cash into the National Health Service by 2023-24 is welcome news. This will help pay for more key staff, while improving vital services, such as mental health. More details are expected as part of the NHS's 70th anniversary celebrations.

Additional funding, as part of the new capital allocations, will also help us modernise health and care services to meet the needs of the people of Devon, Torbay and Plymouth.

Integrating health and care services

Previous updates to the committee have outlined the national developments in relation to Integrated Care Systems (ICS) and how locally we have been developing our plans to build on the strong partnership working and integration that exists between commissioners and providers in the NHS and Local Authorities.

Nationally, ICSs are those in which commissioners, NHS providers and Local Authorities, working closely with GP networks and other partners, agree to take shared responsibility (in ways that are consistent with their individual legal obligations) for how they operate their collective resources for the benefit of local populations.

Last year, 8 STPs (Sustainability and Transformation Partnerships) were identified as areas that would adopt a new way of partnership working, where new arrangements could be evolved and implemented. In May 2018, 4 more areas were identified to become integrated care systems (Gloucester, West Yorkshire and Harrogate, Suffolk and North East Essex, North Cumbria).

It remains an ambition in Devon towards to move towards fully integrating health and care services. NHS England have advised us to continue to act as a system and work through the arrangements and plan for taking on more of the regulatory functions from next year, subject to having a single local NHS commissioning body in place. Our next milestone for this would be to be formally recognised by our regulators as an ICS from April 2019.

Our aspirations for the Devon system are emerging from the STP process and are built on solid foundations of collaborative working and integration. NHS England has encouraged us to create the foundations for moving to ICS status, including the development of an integrated System Lead Chief Executive role combined with that of the Accountable Officer for the two CCGs.

A core element of the emerging approach is the development of integrated strategic commissioning, which can act across health and social care, and take on delegated commissioning from NHS England for primary care and increasingly specialised commissioning. The three Local Authorities (Devon County Council, Plymouth City Council and Torbay Council) have been active in this approach; sharing elements of commissioning, collaborating in our shared geographies and

NHS organisations involved:

Northern, Eastern and Western Devon Clinical Commissioning Group
South Devon and Torbay Clinical Commissioning Group

delegating significant investment into joint commissioning arrangements with each CCG through section 75 agreements/ risk share agreements. A future strategic commissioner will need to recognise these existing joint arrangements, and align them with our other clinical commissioning arrangements.

The Future of CCGs in Devon

Torbay Council and South Devon and Torbay CCG have a long history of working together closely with its main provider Torbay and South Devon Foundation Trust to deliver integrated care and good outcomes for local people.

It is our ambition and intent that the benefits that we have reaped from working together locally, such as being responsive to local needs and delivering innovative changes at pace to enhance care for the local population, are supported and enhanced with the advantages of being part of a wider Devon system and the resilience, sharing of good practice, and economies of scale that this has to offer.

NEW Devon CCG and South Devon and Torbay CCG have been working on aligning their resources and executive teams to ensure that local health commissioning is more consistent. We have a sound basis to become both more integrated with our partner Local Authorities and to take on enhanced responsibilities from NHS England. The two CCGs have been operating with boards in common since autumn 2017 and a joint executive structure since April 2018.

NHS England is strongly supporting and advocating for us to move towards an ICS, with the ability to take on a range of delegated functions including primary care commissioning (fully delegated, approximately £200m budget). The regulator view is that merging the two CCGs into one health commissioning body would demonstrate that we are serious about working a more integrated way and taking on more responsibilities for commissioning and assurance. NHS England have a clear expectation that the CCGs will merge for April 2019. This would provide a single coherent NHS commissioning voice for Devon within an increasingly integrated care system.

There are clear national guidelines and annual timescales for CCG mergers, which are set by NHS England, and national criteria and tests which need to be fulfilled. This commences with an expression of interest and statement of intent which the CCG Governing bodies need to make by the end of July. Stakeholder support is an important part of this.