KEY MESSAGES FROM THE DRAFT PRIMARY CARE COMMISSIONING STRATEGY

NHS
Dorset
Clinical Commissioning Group

Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) is the organisation responsible for planning and securing healthcare in Dorset. From April 2016, we have been given additional responsibilities for the way we buy and plan general practice (GP) services.

We know from our GP survey results that patients are mostly happy with their GP services but there are areas where we need to do more work, especially around opening times and hours. We also know from our GPs and practice teams that they are under extreme pressure with increasing workloads and diminishing staff numbers.

We have recognised for some time that things need to change. Now there is national guidance that supports the need to change in the General Practice Forward View (GPFV) document published by NHS England earlier this year. You can find this document at

www.england.nhs.uk/ourwork/gpfv

Our reasons for change are simple: General Practice in its current form will find it difficult to respond to changing needs, if it does not evolve. The existing health service was not designed to meet the needs of the current population; people are living longer and many have complex long-term conditions. GPs and their teams have developed and adapted their individual practices well over time and this has resulted in many great achievements. However, we now need a wider reaching strategy - or long-term plan - to better address current and future challenges.Along with our proposals for acute hospitals, community services and the transformation of healthcare in Dorset detailed in the Clinical Services Review (CSR), which is due to go to public consultation this autumn, the Primary Care Commissioning Strategy will help to deliver the overarching aims of Dorset's Sustainability and Transformation Plan (STP) over the next five years. The strategy aims to help and ensure that health and care services are built around the needs of our local population.

Our draft Primary Care Commissioning Strategy describes how we plan to ensure that every person in Dorset can get a GP appointment when they need it and that high quality GP services are available to patients wherever they live in Dorset. It explains how better patient experience could be achieved by organising GP practices into larger groups, working together more closely with other providers of health and social care services. Working in groups should make practices stronger and help them to attract and retain the GPs and staff required to meet local needs.

Patients will have their care delivered from larger, local and better-equipped sites offering a wider range of options for care. This will also help to support patients who wish to take greater control of their own conditions. Models for the future provision of GP services will be developed locally with communities and GPs, reflecting the fact that the needs of the population vary across the county.

You can read our proposals for a future model of general practice in full by visiting:
http://www.dorsetccg.nhs.uk/aboutus/primary-care-strategy.htm

The document will be available on the CCG website shortly.

If you wish to provide any feedback please email:
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