

Decommissioning

Overview & Scrutiny Review
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Definitions

- **Decommissioning** is when a service procured by the PCT is withdrawn consistent with contractual terms whilst ensuring adverse impact on patients is minimal.
- **Termination** is cessation of a service by the PCT or the provider consistent with the contractual conditions.

NHS Standard Acute Contract:

Clause 36.3: *on termination of this agreement or termination of any services or part of the services.....the provider shall.....*

Clause 36.3.1: *cooperate fully with the ... commissioner and any successor provider...ensure continuity and a smooth transfer....to avoid any inconvenience or any risk to the health & safety of patients...*

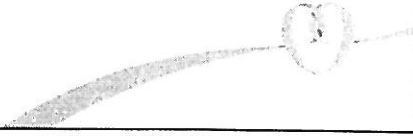
[Neither of the above may result in a replacement service]



Proactive decommissioning


County Durham and Darlington


The precipitants for proactive decommissioning:

- Not a clinical priority
 - Provider is not demonstrably delivering despite agreed remedial action
 - Insufficient need/demand for current volume of service or number of providers
 - The service represents poor *value for money*
 - Market Management initiatives
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Reactive Decommissioning


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The drivers for reactive decommissioning:

- Advance mitigation of impact prior to natural expiry of a time-limited contract
 - Notice of termination of contract from the provider
 - Breach of contract due to patient safety issues or irreconcilably poor performance or clinical governance
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Circumstances


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Degrees of Decommissioning

- Same service – different location
- Same service – different provider
- Same location – different service
- Decommissioning by another NHS body



Issues


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- Specifications
- Timescales – notice vs future option
- Local vs County Wide
- Decisions out of area & impact on Darlington residents
- AQP policy / choice
- Responsibility on provider
- Exit plans
- Appeals process – contractual & patient input.



Documentation

NHS
County Durham and Darlington

- Decommissioning Impact Assessment
- Contract Review Proforma
- Process Flowchart

