

Long Term Conditions – Task and Finish Group

Tuesday, 10th July 2012

Present: - Councillors E. A. Richmond and S. Richmond.

Officers: - Mark Jones, Specialist Services Manager and Carol Robinson, Service Integration Manager/AHP lead, County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust and Abbie Metcalfe, Democratic Officer.

Members were keen to receive a report on the progress made by Officers to utilise facilities at the Dolphin Centre as a one stop shop to provide health checks and advice on long term conditions.

Members were informed that an Officers meeting was scheduled to take place on Friday 13th July 2012 to discuss the detail of using the Dolphin Centre. Officers reported that the proposal must be led by the commissioners and that the Shadow Clinical Commissioning Group needed to be fully engaged in order for this service to be successful. Pulmonary rehabilitation is already established in the Dolphin Centre and the service will continue to operate from there, the Trust would like to extend that service to offer more services, such as cardiac rehabilitation which currently takes place at Eastbourne Sports Complex and could easily be changed. Physiotherapy could also be offered at the Dolphin Centre which is currently carried out in Darlington Memorial Hospital (DMH) which might encourage people to continue attending the leisure centre.

Officers are aware that if a service of this nature was commissioned that the Trust would have to tender for the services, the same as other providers. However, it was noted that if the Trust were currently providing services it would be a change of venue, which would be easier to implement, which has been done in the past, the example quoted was ante-natal classes which were at DMH and are now provided at the Dolphin Centre.

Members were pleased that discussions were underway but expressed frustration that there was no proposed start date or commissioning specification yet.

It was explained that patients with straightforward physio needs could be transferred to the Dolphin Centre straight away as it would be easier for patients for a number of reasons to go there for treatment. The key would be to educate patients and promote the positives of running the service from the Dolphin Centre.

It was noted that Public Health are very keen to promote healthy living, exercise programmes, healthy eating etc. and health programmes as a result of long term conditions. Discussion ensued about exercise on prescription and encouraging GPs to use it more.

In response to a question regarding the use of Telehealth, Members were reminded that there were a number of on-going pilots that the Trust is running. Officers shared their concerns about the potential cost implications and patients' reluctance to use the equipment, although, acknowledging that there are a number of benefits to using telehealth equipment.

Members were pleased to note that the Trusts readmission avoidance scheme was working particularly well with regards to long term conditions and action plans are in plan to enable staff to be more reactive.

Actions:-

- That work continue to be undertaken to explore the possibility of using space in the Dolphin Centre to promote Long Term Conditions on rolling programme and drop in centre.
- That the following documents be sent to the Democratic Officer for sharing with the members:-
 - Prevention First and Health Improvement Delivery Plan 2011/13
 - Outcome of the Pilot in respect of the Durham Dales and Diabetes.
 - Outcome of patient feedback – secret shopper.
 - Performance information in respect of the Readmission avoidance.
- That a further meeting of the Group be arranged in 2 months' time.
- That Officers be thanked for attending the meeting.