

DARLINGTON DARZI PRACTICE TASK AND FINISH GROUP**6th Meeting****Thursday, 29th November 2012, 2.00pm, Committee Room 3**

Present: - Councillor J. Taylor in the Chair; Councillors Macnab, E. A. Richmond and S. Richmond.

Darlington LINK – Angela Goldie.

Apols:- Councillors Newall and Nutt; Michelle Thompson.

Internal Officers: - Abbie Metcalfe, Democratic Services.

External Officers: - Mary Bewley, Head of Communications, NHS County Durham and Darlington.

Purpose: - To meet with Officers of the Dr Piper House Review Task and Finish Group.

Mary Bewley tabled a copy of the recent briefing note issued regarding the Darlington Darzi Practice. The briefing note provided an update on communications and engagement, the decommissioning process and the reinvestment of resources.

Communications and Engagement

Ms Bewley reported her thanks to Darlington Links for their assistance in sharing communications with other partners. Members were delighted to note that translated versions of the patient letter have been provided to practice staff in a number of alternative languages, as requested by the Darzi Practice. Ms Bewley reported that information would be made available via websites and information is being submitted to Darlington Links for inclusion in their newsletter which is distributed to some 120 local groups. Information has been directly sent to NECA and travelling communities with an offer from staff to meet with hard to reach groups to discuss the changes in more detail. There will also be two drop in sessions held at Dr Piper House before and after Christmas allowing patients to directly seek assistance.

Decommissioning process

Ms Bewley advised that monthly monitoring of the movement of patients is underway until the end of March 2013 and regular meetings are being held at the Practice to discuss patient movement and progression against a list dispersal action plan. Patients that are not actively re-registering are also being monitored. Ms Bewley stated that movement had been slow and that a second letter would be distributed to patients early in the new year. It was noted that the list dispersal action plan would remain in place until 31st March 2013.

The North East Primary Care Services Agency (NEPCSA) regularly met with the Practice to determine the progress against the dispersal plan. Members were reassured

that the dispersal plan is on target but the majority of actions will be required to be completed between January and March 2013.

Reinvestment of Resources

Members were pleased to note that the amount of resources released as a result of decommissioning is around £1million. Ms Bewley reported that discussions are on-going with regards to the detail of how this resource will be used for commissioning primary care services and reflected in Darlington CCG's commissioning intentions subject to its funding allocation.

It was noted that Darlington CCG has initiated a piece of research on access to GP appointments in Darlington, which is being carried out by the Darlington CCG Urgent Care Board and a report will be produced in the new year.

Ms Bewley highlighted the areas of urgent care focus already identified by Darlington CCG to include; enhanced intermediate care services; enhanced nursing services team to support better care; primary care services and support for increased non-elective , urgent care and accident and emergency activity.

Actions –

Mary Bewley to

- Circulate information following the Task and Finish Group meeting being held today.
- Establish whether there is any evidence of patients leaving moving practices until the last minute.
- Update on the services provided at the Gate and future provision.
- Share the final report on access to GP appointments in Darlington with Members.
- Present evidence that the hard to reach groups are receiving the patient information.

Agreed – (a) That Mary Bewley be thanked for her attendance at the meeting and the actions detailed above to be completed as soon as soon.

(b) That the next meeting to be held in January 2013 once the access to GP appointments report is available.