

Briefing Note – NHS Community Contract Procurement

To:	Members
From:	Karen Hawkins Director of Commissioning & Transformation
Date:	August 2017
Purpose:	To update members of the work that is being undertaken in relation to the procurement of the NHS Community Contract within Darlington and County Durham.
Background:	<p>Members are aware that the existing NHS Community Contract is delivered across Darlington & County Durham by County Durham and Darlington Foundation Trust (CDDFT).</p> <p>Community health services provide a wide range of care, from supporting patients to manage long-term conditions, to treating those who are ill with complex conditions.</p> <p>Most community healthcare takes place in the community or in people's homes. Teams of nurses and therapists coordinate care, working with professions including GPs and social care. Additionally community health provides preventative and health improvement services, often with partners from local authorities and the third sector.</p> <p>Although less visible than hospitals, they deliver an extensive and varied range of services.</p> <p>The CCGs in Darlington & County Durham recently served notice on CDDFT's contract. In real terms this means that the contract for 2018/19 could be delivered in the future by CDDFT or a different provider.</p> <p>The CCGs have previously served notice on the community services contract with CDDFT but due to a variety of reasons have decided not to peruse a procurement exercise. However the CCGs are now in a position to explore if there is potential interest from the provider market which will help inform the CCGs whether a full procurement process is in the best interests</p>

of our residents/patients.

The CCGs believe a number of services are fragmented and some are commissioned separately from a number of different providers.

This process will allow an opportunity to reconcile this position.

Furthermore there is an aspiration across Darlington to deliver care in a much more integrated way. Should the market engagement exercise identify potential providers and should a full procurement exercise be undertaken, there will be a clear emphasis on providing care to enable patients to stay well at home, supported by teams of clinicians and other staff, preventing admission for frail and elderly patients at risk of admission to hospital. It is recognised that a new approach is needed to bring positive benefits in terms of improving people's health, wellbeing and experience of care, particularly in wrapping services around people's needs and shifting the focus to keeping people well and happy at home, supported when needed by people who know them, with reduced demand for hospital and other health and care services.

The key objectives of a procurement exercise will be to:

- Meet patients' needs and improve the quality and efficiency of services;
- Deliver services between primary, community and social care in a more integrated way; right care, right place, right time
- Provide best value for money in doing so

The next step in this process is the Procurement Prior Information Notification (PIN) which has been issued in relation to the community contract for Darlington and County Durham.

The PIN notifies the market of a potential forthcoming procurement. It is issued at an early stage in an attempt to gather information on whether providers of NHS care are interested in preparing a bid for the contract and promotes dialogue between them and commissioners. It is part of the preliminary scoping work currently being undertaken by the CCGs.

On receipt of potential interest, the CCG's are looking to engage with interested parties to explore further. A provider engagement event is scheduled therefore for 7th September 2017.

It is anticipated that the following portfolio of adult community services will be potentially included depending on the market engagement exercise.

- Speech and Language Therapy
- Occupational Therapy
- Orthotics
- Community Hospitals
- Intermediate Care
- Chronic Fatigue Syndrome/ME
- Community Nursing Services (including Matrons)
- Community Rehabilitation
- Continence Services
- Community Dietetics
- Falls and Osteoporosis Services
- Specialist Nursing Services
- Palliative Care/End of Life Services (excluding hospice based services)
- Pulmonary Rehabilitation
- Podiatry
- Tissue Viability Services
- Lymphedema Services

The scope of some of these services will be locality based and others may be potentially Darlington and County Durham wide, but with some local variation.

A key requirement will be the ability to work in partnership with a wide range of organisations including general practices, the local authority, voluntary and independent sector providers to successfully provide high quality care for our patient population. Provider(s) will be expected to work collaboratively across the health and social care economy to deliver high quality and value for money services ensuring a seamless patient pathway, utilising new models of care demonstrating a collective community

	<p>approach. Examples of this are Primary Care Home or Multi Specialty Community Providers</p> <p>There is an expectation that providers will be working to establish these relationships in anticipation of participating in the procurement process. Should the procurement process proceed, we expect that it will conclude by April 2018 with an anticipated contract start date of October 2018.</p> <p>Consideration is also being given to reprocurring the NHS Children's Services elements of the Community Contract. Should reprocurement proceed it will do so within a different timeframe to Adult Services. It will be necessary to combine the elements of services currently provided by CDDFT, NT&H FT and Harrogate and District NHS Foundation Trust into one single specification and contract. This will be actioned in line with the current timeline which sees the current Harrogate, CDDFT and NT&H contracts expiring in March 2019.</p>
Next steps:	<p>As referenced above a Provider Engagement Event is planned for the 7th September, following which a formal decision will be taken by the CCGs on whether to proceed with re-procurement.</p> <p>Members will be kept updated on progress at regular intervals.</p>