



ANNUAL REPORT & ACCOUNTS

For the year ended
28 February 2019

CHAIRMAN'S FORWARD

Dear Member

I am pleased to provide you with this report about South Durham Health Community Interest Company's work over the past year, the first in my new role as Chair,

The services we offer to practices continue to perform well and we have had excellent feedback from both service users and practices. This is against the background of challenges in many service areas. From August 2018 we have provided our Vulnerable Adults Wrap Around Service under contract to County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust and have worked effectively to establish an effective working relationship with senior managers in the Trust to ensure that this service continues to meet its objectives. We continued to work well with Tees Esk and Wear Valley NHS Foundation Trust to deliver the aligned mental health service to practices. With uncertainty and change in other local mental health services, the staff in this service have seen their workload increase but continue to receive overwhelmingly positive responses from patients. The Primary Care service has been the subject of extended discussion about future locations and opening times, which has been difficult for staff who, despite the uncertainty, have continued to provide outstanding performance and continue to receive very positive feedback from patients.

We have been able to provide additional resources to practices to support work which is in line with our objectives as a Community Interest Company and which support local and national priorities and offered training and development through our Time Out sessions and through access to on line resources.

As well as working to support individual practices, we have continued to work with the five Primary Care Home groups in South Durham as they developed inter practice collaboration and their working relationships with the wider team around patients. This support has taken on a new dimension as the groups took the decision to register as Primary Care Network (PCN) and sign up to the Network Agreements and support to PCNs will continue to be a big part of our work programme for 2019/20.

We have had some personnel changes, with Dr Diane Robinson stepping down as Chair but taking on a new role as Governance Lead and Dr Edward Staines retiring from the Board of Directors. Thank you to both for all their hard work as Directors. We will be reassessing the roles we need to ensure we can continue to support practices and Primary Care Networks in the future.

We have set out some of our achievements for this year and our plans for the future in the report and look forward to sharing ideas on how best we can continue to work with you.

Dr Kamal Sidhu

Chairman

ABOUT SOUTH DURHAM HEALTH

South Durham Health (SDH) is a federated group of general practices. The federation serves the localities of Easington and Sedgefield and surrounding areas in County Durham. General Practices have agreed to work together to better meet the needs of the communities they serve. To support this goal, they have formed a not for profit Community Interest Company Community (CIC). The members of the CIC are partners in our practices and they select members to serve on a Board of Directors which provides leadership for the federation. In addition we have a Chief Executive, Business Manager, Clinical Governance Lead and an Administrator to work alongside the Board and members.

Our Goals

Community Interest Companies exist to promote the interests of local communities. The purpose of South Durham Health CIC is:

To relieve illness and promote health in South Durham - the work of SDH will improve health care services for people living in South Durham to help them live healthier, happier lives, and:

To ensure that General Practice in South Durham is viable – the work of SDH will support general practices as the best way of delivering the personalised, comprehensive health care which is essential to the health and well-being of people in South Durham.

Our Objectives

Our objectives are:

To work with patients and communities and understand the health needs of people in South Durham so that we can work with the practices to design and deliver the right services for the future.

To make South Durham an outstanding place to train and work as a primary health care professional so that there are the skills and the capacity available to general practice to meet the needs of patients.

To provide services so that we can support general practice in meeting the needs of patients and so that we can generate resources to invest in programmes which support our objectives.

To promote and support shared good practice, collaborative working and shared services amongst our member practices so that they can make most effective use of resources and continuously improve their services.

To do business effectively so that we can best meet the needs of our members.

Annual Report And Accounts 2019

To give general practice in South Durham a strong voice in shaping the future of health services in the North East by being a **credible partner and engaging with networks, formal and informal.**

To seek and deliver additional resources to assist general practice to sustain and develop services and to support practices in difficulty, in accordance with the wishes of our members.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Our Services: Meeting the Needs of Patients

A key objective of South Durham Health is to provide services that support general practice in meeting the needs of patients. During 2018/19 we delivered improvements to our existing services and added new services which benefit patients and practices.

Primary Care Service

The Primary Care Service in Easington and Sedgefield has been a pilot for primary care extended access for Durham Dales Easington and Sedgefield Clinical Commissioning Group (DDES CCG) since April 2017. Practices in Easington and Sedgefield have experience of running their own extended hours arrangements to provide their own registered patients access to service outside normal practice hours, but the requirement for the Primary Care Service is very different as it is:

- accessible to all DDES residents;
- provides only an urgent same day minor ailment service;
- offers appointments triaged and booked via NHS 111 (with some capacity for patients who meet the criteria for the service to be booked directly by their practice).

South Durham Health holds two contracts, covering services provided from five locations. A sixth location in Easington is operated by IntraHealth with whom we work closely. We have experienced Advanced Nurse Practitioners plus reception staff working in the service which is managed on behalf of South Durham Health by GP practices who are members of the federation. Local GPs across the federation are also contracted to work in the service. The service has had consistently positive patient feedback:

“Quick appointment my son was treated fairly and quickly and nurse was very patient with my autistic son”.

“Very attentive and caring NHS staff. Felt fully looked after. Local and easy to find. Would always recommend. Thank you”

“Quick service kind staff”

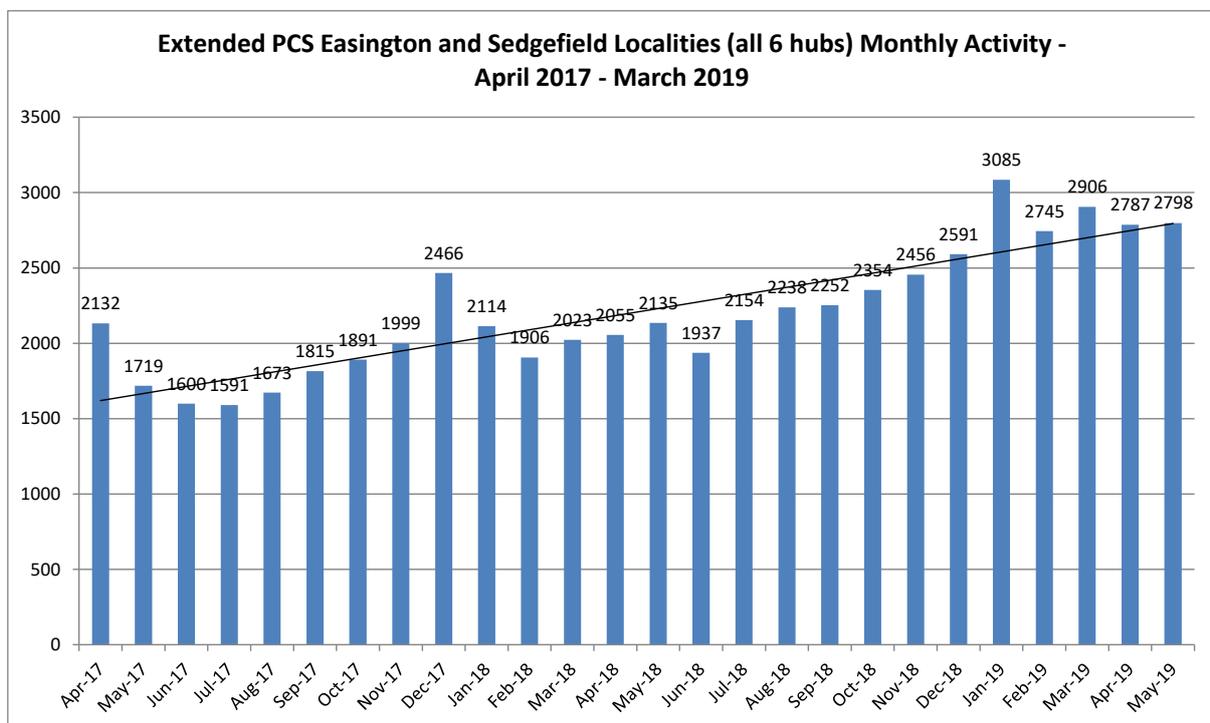
“Kind reception from receptionist and Nurse”

Annual Report And Accounts 2019

“Friendly. Good with kids would recommend”

Source: Friends and Family Test results Quarter 4 2018-19

Activity has increased steadily since the service started in April 2017.



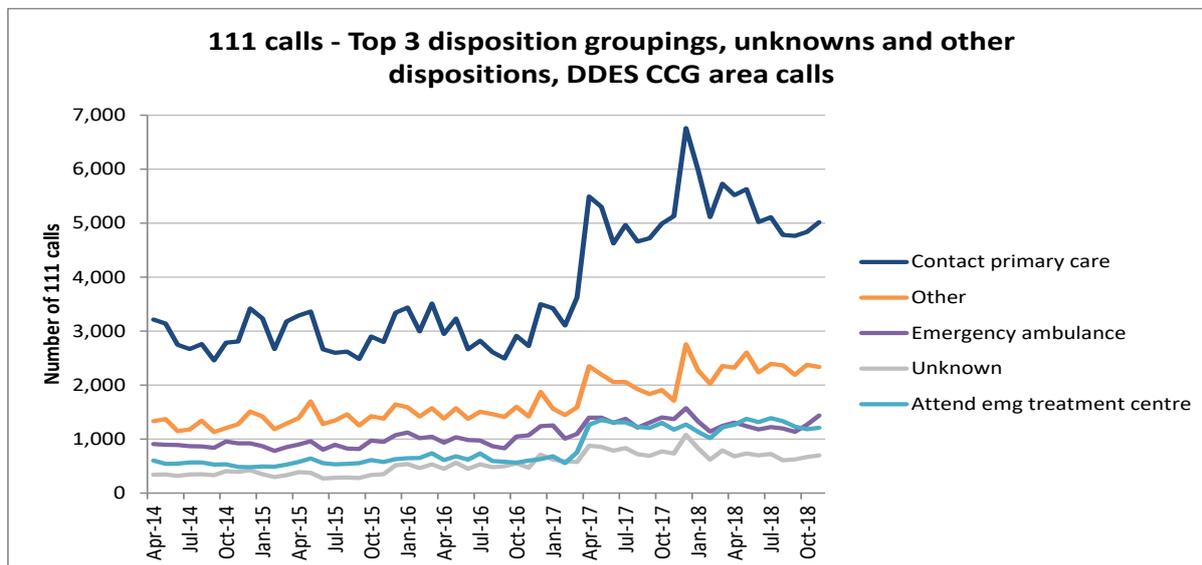
Source: South Durham Health activity data

Durham Dales Easington and Sedgefield CCG undertook a review of this service after a year of operation started and engaged with patients, communities and practices to consider how the service could best meet local requirements going forward.

We have worked with DDES to collect feedback and provide activity data. This review finally reported in June 2019 and concluded that the service has met its objectives in that, as a result of changes to the walk in urgent care services in DDES CCG and the introduction of extended access primary care services, there has been an increase in usage of NHS 111 with a disposition of “contact primary

Annual Report And Accounts 2019

care” without an increase in usage of other services (specifically emergency treatment centres and emergency ambulance).



Source: Version 9 Decision Making Business Case DDES CCG, May 2019.

The CCG have nevertheless determined on some changes to locations and operating hours based on their conclusion that:

- Services are valued, but utilisation is low in some areas
- Current capacity is double the national recommended requirement
- Value for money of current services is an issue given the health needs of the DDES population.

We are therefore working with the CCG towards implementation of a new service specification later this year which alters the opening hours of the Peterlee and Seaham services to 6pm to 8pm each weekday (weekend hours are unchanged at these locations). The Peterlee service will offer an overflow facility during the day (12pm-6pm) if NHS 111, exceptionally, cannot get a patient booked in with their own practice. The Sedgefield site (Harbinson House) will open only at weekends and weekend opening hours at Newton Aycliffe, Spennymoor and Sedgefield will be 10am to 2pm. All sites will offer some pre booked appointments (aimed primarily at patients who work away) and there will be a limited visiting service for housebound patients.

Extended access services will become the responsibility of Primary Care Networks after July 2019 and all practices signed up to a network agreement will have to decide how new revised arrangements (to be determined via a national review of

Annual Report And Accounts 2019

service) will be implemented by April 2021. The existing service puts local networks in a strong position to respond.

Diabetes Service

July 2018 saw the third year of the Integrated Diabetes System in the DDES and North Durham CCG area. SDH continued to work closely with the Diabetes Systems team and collaborative partners: County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust, North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust and City Hospitals Sunderland NHS Foundation Trust. The delivery of diabetes services for the vast majority of Type 2 patients with diabetes is now embedded within primary care and on an exceptional basis has been offered to some Type 1 patients who were reluctant to engage with care in Secondary Care settings.

The delivery of this system way of working is overseen by the Diabetes Governance Board and Locality Groups. SDH is an active member of the Easington Locality Group, Sedgfield Locality Group and the Diabetes Governance Board and has representation from our GPs and Practice Nurses on these groups, to ensure local needs are reflected in agreed Action Plans and objectives for further improvement. We currently have 16 practices within SDH Federation at the highest Care Plus Plus level, 2 at Care Plus and 2 at Care Basic. The ability to achieve Care Plus Plus status for all practices has been limited by changes in workforce and capacity within individual practices. Forthcoming practice mergers and the formation of Primary Care Networks and national indemnity for clinicians, provide an opportunity to build resilience in the workforce and sustainability of high quality services in primary care.

During April/ May 2019 the Locality Groups took time to reflect on achievements to date and completed a mid-point evaluation and SWOT analysis of the Integrated Model. This acknowledged the benefits seen locally for staff and patients, including the provision of easily accessible and relevant education for clinicians, ease of access for patients to care, reduced waiting times, reduced duplication of review appointments, standardised care, shared learning and better team working between primary and secondary care clinicians.

Following on from the success of the local MERIT education sessions delivered for practices in November 2017, SDH and the Diabetes System Team organised another round of local education sessions for our GPs and Nurses working with diabetes, this time delivered by the Bradford Primary Care Training College, in October 2018, these also evaluated well. For 2019-20 an afternoon session has been commissioned from the popular NB Medical 'Hot Topics' for Diabetes.

In addition the balance of the diabetes training budget held by SDH was used to reimburse practices requiring accredited training where they have experienced turnover in their GP and Practice Nurse leads, or wished to train additional clinicians with a view to improving capacity and resilience for their diabetes care provision in

Annual Report And Accounts 2019

practice. A new development during 2018-19 was the introduction of locality MDT/ Peer Discussion Groups, where nurses and GPs from across practices in Sedgfield and Easington can get together to discuss complex cases and share experiences and learning with each other and DSN/ Consultant colleagues. These sessions work on an optional basis and are rotated round different venues within the localities, with the aim of being accessible to all practices.

Improvement priorities for the year ahead include: increasing the delivery and uptake of diabetic foot screening and basic dietetic advice for patients, through the implementation of an enhanced service with primary care for practice-based patient care.

Primary Care Mental Health Service

This service, commissioned by DDES CCG and operated in partnership with Tees, Esk and Wear Valley Foundation Trust and the IntraHealth Federation continues to be well received by patients and practices. Friends and Family Test results consistently provides very positive feedback, with 100% of those who responded in January 2019 recommending the service. Examples of feedback from May and June 2019 included:

“Very helpful and supportive”

“So helpful and make you feel comfortable”

“Brilliant service. Thank you very much”

“I couldn't have asked for better service. Felt like I was in control of my life again. Would highly recommend”

“This has been so very helpful. I have found support I desperately needed. It has made a big difference”

“More sessions needed”

We have had difficulty in obtaining useful data to support the management of the service and monitor performance because currently all activity is reported through individual practice systems. We are in the process of implementing a new way of collecting and reporting data (via a SystmOne community module) which has improved the timeliness and quality of the information available to staff and which we hope to use to improve reporting for commissioners.

A number of drivers have prompted the decision to conduct a review of the Primary Care Mental Health Service in the Sedgfield and Easington localities:

- The service has been in place for three years now, so is timely for another review

Annual Report And Accounts 2019

- The new development of Primary Care Networks, as the basis for delivery of primary and community services to patients in local geographic areas.
- Turnover in staffing in the service
- Request from one practice in the Easington area for the service to consider delivery on a PCN basis
- Increasing demand and caseload accelerated by the loss of the primary care counselling service and the delay in introducing the reconfigured IAPT model.

The aim is to undertake a service review, to look at the demands and challenges the service is facing now and in the future and make recommendations for how these could be met. The views of all stakeholders will be taken on board and a report produced to share with the new Primary Care Networks and Commissioners, to enable informed decision making on any desired changes going forward.

All stakeholders, practices, staff working in the service, patients and Commissioners will have an opportunity to comment on how they perceive the service and to identify what works well and should be preserved and what could be improved.

Vulnerable Adults Wrap around Service

As part of the CCG re-procurement of community services across DDES, Darlington and North Durham, VAWAS became part of the specification for this larger contract, which was awarded to County Durham and Darlington Foundation Trust in 2018. SDH and Jubilee Medical Group (who employ the ANPs) have continued to provide the service under a sub-contract to County Durham and Darlington Foundation Trust. There is however the expectation that the service may be put out to competitive tender later this year.

In 2018/19 DDES and North Durham CCGs renewed the winter period extended hours service they commissioned in 2017/18, which allowed the service to continue to operate 6pm to 8pm weekdays and to extend the hours of operation at the weekend. As in the previous year SDH has been able to run this service enhancement throughout the financial year, acknowledging the value that Primary Care put upon this service in supporting their vulnerable patients all year round. These two separately commissioned service elements are provided as an integrated whole by the VAWAS team.

The aim of the service was to provide additional proactive primary care support for those most vulnerable patients across North Durham and DDES CCG; to provide care closer to home; to improve access to primary care and to reduce in-hours and out-of-hours avoidable admissions and support the CCGs in reducing Emergency Department attendances (including Urgent Care Centres).

The VAWAS team consists of 15-16 full and part-time, highly experienced ANPs, who support the most vulnerable and elderly patients, primarily in residential or nursing care homes, but also provide support to a smaller number of vulnerable patients living in their own homes, as identified by GPs. During 2018-19 the ANPs delivered in

Annual Report And Accounts 2019

excess of 3,000 patient contacts/ enquiries per month, with around 80% of this workload in care homes, up to 6% in patients own homes and 14% by telephone advice. Most of the referrals to the service (90%) were generated directly through the care homes, with only 3-5% being through GP intervention. The vast majority of the ANPs patient contacts were able to be managed successfully in situ, on a see, treat and discharge basis. Only 0.5% of patient contacts resulted in the patient being sent to A&E or admitted to hospital. This demonstrates the value of VAWAS in supporting care homes to maintain their residents within the care home environment appropriately and avoiding unnecessary and undesirable admissions to hospital settings.

During 2018-19 the VAWAS service was configured largely on a locality basis, with ANPs working in teams for Sedgefield and Easington localities, but with close alignments to particular Care Homes within these areas for efficiency of working, continuity of patient care and developing trusted and constructive relationships with Care Home staff. Practice alignments were also maintained where possible, but the cross over with care home populations meant this could not always be a one to one relationship.

With the advent of Primary Care Home (PCH) groups and Teams Around Patients (TAPs) and looking forward to July 2019 Primary Care Networks (PCN), the service discussed the potential to reconfigure for dedicated teams on a PCN basis. From analysis of the workload demand and the weekly hours of service coverage required by the contract specification, it became apparent that stand alone teams would not be viable on a practice registered list basis. The differential spread of care homes across PCN geography, serving multiple practice patients means that there is a need for ANPs to work flexibly. The small size of the team also necessitates working at above PCN level for the Easington Central and District PCNs and across all PCNs for the purposes of absence cover. It was agreed however that the VAWAS team should start to work wherever possible on a PCN team based approach, to link into the work of the TAPs and Virtual Ward concept.

During 2018-19 the nascent PCN and TAP groups provided a useful basis for improvement and engagement discussions with a number of Care Home Managers and VAWAS ANPs and through joint work with Durham County Council, projects on Homely Remedies, use of the SBAR tool and going forward into 2019-20 the phased roll-out of the HealthCall programme across residential care homes.

NHS Healthchecks

In 2018-19 we continued with the collaborative approach with neighbouring federations in the Durham area to deliver the NHS Health Checks programme for the commissioners, County Durham Public Health. All practices took part in this contract according to their available capacity, to deliver health checks to eligible patients in the 40-70 year old age group. This second year of the contract was successful in delivering an increased activity level of 2430 health checks. Collectively, the federations exceeded the 9000 target activity level in the contract and an additional 500 health checks were agreed by Durham County Council.

Two additional checks for eligible patient groups were agreed as a variation to this contract for 2018-19. These were pulse rate and rhythm checks for the over 75 year olds without pre-established conditions (8000 checks) and blood pressure checks for

Annual Report And Accounts 2019

30-39 year olds (2000 checks). Our practices delivered 1,726 pulse checks and 630 blood pressure checks respectively.

Public Health were pleased with the performance and data quality delivered by these services, and have agreed the contract for a third year in 2019-20 at the same target activity levels. As a refinement there is no longer a requirement for practices to deliver a set level of activity each quarter, but instead an annual target to deliver checks to 2% of the eligible population.

Anitcoagulation Monitoring

With one exception all the practices signed up to the Any Qualified Provider contract for this service held by South Durham Health chose to continue to participate when it was renewed (after its original three year term) for a further year in 2019/20.

SUPPORTING GENERAL PRACTICE

South Durham Health works with its practices to provide a workforce which has the skills to respond to local health needs and ensure that there is the capacity within practices to deal with demand. This includes promoting the development of expanded roles for primary care staff, ensuring careers in South Durham are attractive and supporting practices to provide additional capacity and develop skills in priority areas.

Supporting the expansion of the skilled workforce in South Durham

New roles in primary care

We have supported the recruitment of clinical pharmacists into local practices through the NHS England scheme since its inception in 2015. Over the life of the scheme, eight pharmacists have chosen to work in South Durham, with the most recent recruit joining Skerne Medical Group in May 2019. The scheme has now closed as the emphasis has moved to Clinical Pharmacists working with Primary Care Networks. We have a good track record of recruiting and retaining staff locally, and supporting them to work as part of a broader team, which should place local PCNs in a strong position to develop the new network role.

Community Education Provider Network

South Durham Health worked with North Durham and Durham Dales, Easington and Sedgefield Clinical Commissioning Group (DDES CCG), and local federations as part of this network which is currently undergoing considerable change.

Career start

We continue to work with DDES CCG to support the delivery of the Career Start scheme which invites applicants to apply from across the UK for salaried GP posts, based in practices across Easington and Sedgefield. The successful applicants receive two years' joint funding from the CCG and Health Education North East. The GPs receive mentorship as well as help to focus on their clinical and personal development and the opportunity to take part in a range of educational activities.

Health Education England GP Fellow

The NHS Five Year Forward View (FYFV) gave a target of 250 GP Fellowships by 2020. As part of this Health Education England (HEE) agreed a national programme framework and investment model. The North East and North Cumbria had approval for 15 posts and South Durham Health was successful in securing one of these posts but, despite extensive advertisements and the choice of a range of fellowship options, we were unsuccessful in attracting candidates, and this unfortunately was a common story across the North East.

Annual Report And Accounts 2019

Lantum

We continue to work with Lantum who provide a digital platform to allow GPs (who have undergone governance checks) to respond to available sessions posted by practices. This service is available to all our practices without charge.

Additional resources

South Durham continues to make available financial resources to support its member practices. We have for the past four years been funding additional GP and pharmacist sessions to improve the quality and coordination of support for patients with practices providing patient reviews, medication reviews, discussions with relatives, home visits and advice and support to the VAWAS ANPs. We provided £300,000 in 2018/19 from our own resources to continue this programme, as practices told us they value the programme which supports the national and local strategy for frail elderly people.

We also provided funding to support additional continuous development programmes for named clinical leads in each practice which provided up to £2,400 per practice in 2018/19.

We provided a Practice Support Fund which helped practices make small investments which they might not otherwise have been able to put in place to assist patients and make the operation of the practice more effective. This proved very popular.

There is extensive evidence that people with serious mental illnesses, such as schizophrenia, are at risk of dying on average 20 years prematurely. NICE guidelines state that everyone with schizophrenia should have annual physical checks. Yet the recent National Audit of Schizophrenia found that just 29% of people are receiving this. SDH offered financial support to practices to establish a register for patients with mental health issues on antipsychotics and a physical check for those who are stabilized on antipsychotic medication and are issued medication by the practice. All practices chose to participate and we hope that practices will establish a recall system and ongoing monitoring in line with NICE guidance.

First Practice Management

Practices benefitted this year also from a bulk subscription which South Durham has taken out with First Practice Management to provide access to resources to support practice managers.

Collaborative Working

The aim of South Durham Health is to support practices to work together so that they can take up opportunities which otherwise would not be available to individual practices, to improve the resilience and to share ideas and good practice.

Primary Care Home (PCH)

Annual Report And Accounts 2019

South Durham Health supported the five PCH groups in Easington and Sedgefield throughout 2018/19 as they established collective working with teams of staff employed by other organisations and agencies also grouped around practices and their patients. The development of the PCH groups has proved to be an excellent start point for introduction of the new Primary Care Network arrangements.

From May 2019, individual GP practices were able to establish or join PCNs covering populations of between 30,000 to 50,000 (with some flexibility), with a DES (directed enhanced service) covering a number of areas, including funding for the provision of additional workforce and services that the PCN will be required to provide.

We supported the PCNs with the registration process and have been working closely with networks and DDES CCG to ensure that they were in a position to sign off the Network Agreement by the deadline of 1st July 2019. We will have a continuing supporting role with the following networks:

North Easington : Marlborough Surgery, New Seaham, Murton Medical Group, Avenue Family Practice, Deneside Medical Centre, Silverdale Family Practice

Population: 37,042

Clinical Director: Rajiv Mansingh

Easington Central: Blackhall and Peterlee, William Brown Centre, Horden Group Practice

Population: 33,643

Clinical Director: Nitish Sahoo

Easington District: Bevan Medical Group, East Durham Medical Group, IntraHealth at Wingate, Southdene Medical Centre

Population: 32,090

Clinical Director: Dr Dagny Samuel

Sedgefield 1: Bewick Crescent Surgery, Jubilee Medical Group, Peaseway Medical Group, Hallgarth Surgery

Population: 41,740

Clinical Director: Dr Winny Jose

Sedgefield 2: Bishops Close Medical Practice, Ferryhill and Chilton Practice, Skerne Medical Group, St Andrews Medical Practice, West Cornforth Medical Practice

Population: 56,188

Annual Report And Accounts 2019

Immediate priorities now for the networks will be establishing the role of social prescriber link worker within practices, developing an approach to network clinical pharmacists and, subject to the results of the promised national review, extended access.

Training and development

South Durham Health runs protected learning time events for practices for all practice staff to update their knowledge and skills and to come to together with colleagues from across South Durham. We run four events in each locality. Sessions provide practices with access to essential training plus information on areas such as Adult and Child safeguarding, Epilepsy Training, Cardiovascular, Palliative Care update, Transgender Awareness, Supporting patients with Tobacco addiction, 'What is the FIT test', Mindfulness, Sepsis awareness, Identifying carers in Primary Care and advice on Breast Feeding in Primary Care.

We run both Clinical and Non Clinical CPR at a number of the events across both localities. This is always very well attended and well received.

This year the Palliative Care update was a highlight. It received some very positive feedback from GPs who felt they really took something away from the session. The Nurses also thought the Epilepsy Training was 'very intense but extremely informative and useful' and all who attended would be likely to recommend this session to colleagues and put into practice the knowledge they had gained from the session. The Sepsis Awareness training for admin and reception staff proved to be a very popular session with all Practices booking spaces.

South Durham continues to fund access to "Skills for Health" through which every practice can access e-learning for statutory and mandatory training.

ORGANISATIONAL CAPABILITY

One of our objectives is to do business effectively so that we can best meet the needs of our members. As the federation service have increased in number and complexity, we have recognised the need for more dedicated resource to support clinical governance. This led the Board to agree to the introduction of a new post of Clinical Governance Lead. A change in Dr Diane Robinsons' circumstances meant that she stood down as Chair of the federation in early 2019 and this gave us the opportunity to retain her skills and experience as the first Clinical Governance Lead. We are also planning the introduction of a Nurse Lead later this year.

FORWARD PLANS

Our aspiration for the future is to continue to develop the capability, skills and capacity we need to support practices and their patients and to provide an expanded range of services working with and for practices so that we can meet our objective of delivering services which meet the needs of communities in South Durham.

We will continue to pursue programmes across our all of objectives in the next twelve months but, there will be a particular focus on the following:

- Working with those practices delivering the Primary Care Extended Access service, to mobilise to deliver the new service specification from October 2019.
- Developing a response to the service specification for the VAWAS service which we anticipate will be subject to competitive procurement later this year.
- Reviewing the Primary Mental Health service with stakeholders and looking for support from commissioners to increase the resources available to support primary care mental health.
- Working with Primary Care Networks as they develop new roles and employment models and take on a wider role in extended access services.
- Supporting practice based research though the joint contract with the CRN and local federations.
- **Training and development:** we will continue to support Time Out sessions and through subscriptions which give all practices access to on line training and First Practice Management. We work with the Diabetes locality groups to ensure that training needs in this area are met, through funds provided by the CCG as part of the contract for the service. We also provide a small amount of funding which practices can access to support training needs. We are open to discussion about other training needs which could be met on a federation basis.

Annual Report And Accounts 2019

INVESTMENT PLANS

The income of South Durham Health is dependent on the contracts it holds. There will be significant changes to the way in which service such as the extended access, and possibly other “at scale” contracts are contracted for as a result of the introduction of Primary Care Networks. For the coming year though, the federation does have certainty as to its income and is therefore able to continue to offer some support to practices.

Additional activities in practices

In addition to meeting the running costs of South Durham Health in 2018/19 we generated some funds to support expenditure aimed at supporting practices, with the main areas for investment being funding for care home visits (as additional activities) by ANPS, GPs and pharmacists in line with CCG objectives of reducing admission and providing support for the vulnerable elderly and enhancing the quality of the services that practices can offer to their patients. Last year we also provided access to small sums of funding to support activities or purchases which otherwise practices might struggle to fund, which were in line with the aims of the Community Interest Company and:

- For the treatment of patients
- For the comfort and convenience of patients
- To manage the practice more effectively.

Support to these programmes is being made available again during 2019/20.

Last year we also provided a small element of financial support to practices participating in the Clinical Pharmacists in General Practice scheme in recognition that the NHS E funding was very restricted. There is a small amount of funding committed for 2019/20.

To focus on the issue of inadequate physical reviews and suboptimal monitoring of people on medication and to support parity between physical and mental health, SDH offered financial support to practices to enable them to establish a register for patients with mental health issues on antipsychotics. Practices are now in the process of offering a physical check for those who are stabilized on antipsychotic medication and are issued medication by the practice and we will be funded for this activity in 2019/20.

Training and development

We will continue to fund the training and development activities outlined in elsewhere in this report.

THANK YOU TO MEMBERS

The Chair, Directors and staff would like to offer thanks to members of the federation for their engagement and support during the past twelve months and look forward to working with all member practices in the coming year.

