

**TITLE OF REPORT: Consultation on Blaydon GP Practice (Blaydon Primary Care Centre) - Substantial Variation and Development**

**REPORT OF: Sheena Ramsey, Chief Executive  
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### **Summary**

The report sets out the Committee's role in considering proposals from an NHS body / provider which are considered to constitute a "substantial development of the health service in the area or a substantial variation in the provision of a service". In this case the proposals relate to proposed options for Blaydon GP led practice based at Blaydon Primary Care Centre Shibdon Road, Blaydon.

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### **Background**

1. The National Health Service Act 2006, as amended by the Health and Social Care Act 2012 confers health scrutiny functions on local authorities. These functions may be delegated to an existing health overview and scrutiny committee and the Council has delegated these functions, to this OSC.
2. Regulation 23 of the Local Authority (Public Health, Health and Wellbeing boards and Health Scrutiny) Regulations 2013 requires NHS Bodies and health service providers to consult a local authority about any proposal which they have "under consideration" for a substantial development of or variation in the provision of health services in the local authority's area.
3. Where a health scrutiny body has been consulted by a relevant NHS body or health service provider on substantial developments or variations, the health scrutiny body has the power to make comments on the proposals by the date (or changed date) notified by the body or provider undertaking the consultation.
4. Where a health scrutiny body's comments include a recommendation and the consulting organisation disagrees with that recommendation, that organisation must notify the health scrutiny body of the disagreement. OSCs and health bodies must take all practicable steps to achieve a local

resolution within a reasonable period of time before a referral to the Secretary of State can be made.

5. Where a health scrutiny body has not commented on the proposal or has commented but without making a recommendation, it must notify the consulting organisation as to its decision as to whether to refer the matter to the Secretary of State, and if so, the date by which it will make a decision on whether to refer the matter to the Secretary of State.

### **Circumstances and Content of Referrals to Secretary of State**

6. Where a health scrutiny body has been consulted by a relevant NHS body or health service provider on a proposed substantial development or variation it may refer the matter to the Secretary of State in the following circumstances.

- It is not satisfied with the adequacy of content of the consultation.
- It is not satisfied that sufficient time has been allowed for consultation.
- It considers that a proposed change is not in the best interests of the health service in its area.
- It has not been consulted and it is not satisfied that the reasons given for not carrying out consultation are adequate.

7. Where a health scrutiny body makes a referral to the Secretary of State there must be clear evidence based reasons for that referral and the regulations now require that such referrals include:-

- An explanation of the proposal to which the report now relates
- An explanation of the reasons for making the referral
- Evidence in support of these reasons.
- Where the proposal is referred because of inadequate consultation, the reasons why the health scrutiny body is not satisfied of its adequacy.
- Where the proposal is referred because there was no consultation for reasons relating to safety or welfare of patients or staff, reasons why the health scrutiny body is not satisfied that the reasons given for lack of consultation are adequate.
- Where the health scrutiny body believes that proposals are not in the interests of the health service in its area, a summary of the evidence considered, including any evidence of the effect or potential effect of the proposal on the sustainability or otherwise of the health service in the area.
- An explanation of any steps that the health scrutiny body has taken to try to reach agreement with the relevant NHS body or health service provider.
- Evidence that the health scrutiny body has complied with the requirements where a recommendation has been made.

- Evidence that the health scrutiny body has complied with the requirements which apply where a recommendation has not been made, or where no comments have been provided on a proposal.

## **Proposals**

8. Newcastle Gateshead CCG has carried out a public consultation between 20 November 2017 and 14 January 2018 on the options available on the future of Blaydon GP Led Practice and is now formally consulting the Care Health and Wellbeing OSC on these options.
9. The attached documents setting out the proposed options are referred to this Committee for comment as it is considered that one of the proposed options would represent a substantial variation and development to the provision of health services in the borough.
10. The proposals are attached at Appendices 1 and 2 and are as follows:-

**Option 1:** Keep a GP Practice in a Blaydon Primary Care Centre

**Option 2:** Close the GP Practice

In considering the adequacy of the consultation and whether or not the proposals are in the interests of the local health service it would be appropriate for the OSC to consider the following:-

- Drivers for change - national / regional / local developments.
- Information on how Gateshead service users / carers have been consulted / involved in the development of the proposals and feedback from that consultation.
- Transport / Access issues - including to proposed alternative service locations
- Future house building plans in the wider local area.
- Impact of financial considerations / effect of the proposals on the sustainability of NHS services as well as their quality and safety.

## **Recommendations**

11. The Committee is asked to :-
  - a) Comment on the options under consideration.
  - b) Indicate whether it is satisfied with the adequacy of the consultation by Newcastle Gateshead CCG.
  - c) Give its views on the options and whether it is satisfied that the proposed options outlined in relation to Blaydon GP Practice, based at Blaydon Primary Care Centre, are in the interests of the local health service in the area.

