

TITLE OF REPORT: Personal Health Budgets: Update on Progress

Purpose of the Report

To provide a progress summary report on the implementation of Personal Health Budgets (PHB) in the Gateshead area. In line with national policy and guidance from NHS England (NHSE), Newcastle Gateshead Clinical Commissioning Group (NG CCG) is in the implementation stage of offering Personal Health Budgets to eligible patients in the area.

Since October 2014, patients eligible for NHS Continuing Care Funding (CHC) have a 'right to have' a Personal Health Budget and similarly from April 2015 those with a Long-term Condition (LTC) 'who could benefit should have the option of a Personal Health Budget' (NHSE, Government Mandate; 2014).

This paper is an overview of the current situation in relation to NG CCG setting up processes and systems for eligible Gateshead patients to be assessed for and receive a Personal Health Budget.

Background

The *5 Year Forward View* sets out the transformative vision for NHS change and reinforces the Government's expectation that patients will have more choice and control over their own healthcare planning and service provision, particularly through a Personal Health Budget.

CCGs are empowered to develop their own 'local offer' to patients as guided by NHSE, to introduce at a pace and scale which meets local context and patient needs. Gateshead CCG is still in the early stages of implementation.

Core PHB processes, including a pathway for PHB indicative budget setting assessment, care planning, review and payment mechanisms including for Direct Payments, are being progressed by the North of England Commissioning Support (NECS) which is responsible for programme managing and designing PHB systems on behalf of NG CCG.

Similarly to Gateshead Council which underwent a culture change programme in 2008/9 to implement Personal Budgets for eligible service-users, NG CCG is faced with similar challenges in engaging key stakeholders and clinicians to feel empowered and skilled in offering PHBs to patients and supporting each through their journey of Self-Directed Support (SDS).

PHBs is not just a method of making payment to the patient, but is a radical approach which puts the person at the centre of the assessment process, to bestow choice and control and allow the individual to be a partner in their healthcare planning, not a passive recipient. As a consequence NG CCG is working closely with Gateshead council which is offering advice and guidance in relation to implementing a culture change programme across large staffing teams.

A PHB steering group attended by key Health and Social Care representatives from across NG CCG, Gateshead Council and NECs is in place to oversee the PHB programme. The steering group and its members are currently reviewing existing processes to identify gaps, best practices, weaknesses, areas of improvement and opportunities to streamline services across Health & Social Care i.e. through joint support plans which will prevent duplication.

Opportunities for developing a market are to be explored, including non-NHS providers, particularly the third sector, as there must be a flexible market in place which can meet the needs of recipients of PHBs. Currently there is already work underway led by Public Health to identify all services available in the Gateshead area.

Proposal

1. It is proposed that the Health and Wellbeing Board and associated sub-groups including this Advisory Board, continues to support the work of NG CCG and Gateshead Council in implementing PHBs and rolling out on a larger scale. NG CCG plans to refine its local offer so that more eligible patients, namely those with CHC, CC funding or LTC needs, have the opportunity to be considered for a PHB
2. That Public Health is committed and able to work with the PHB steering group in respect of identifying key services currently available as work is already underway in scoping out the market, as per Public Health duties to prioritize services and funding allocation.
3. To facilitate dialogue with third sector lead representatives in relation to developing a flexible market to meet PHB patient need.

Recommendations

4. The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to consider that NG CCG, through NECs is reviewing existing processes and refining its local offer to patients, therefore work is underway in agreeing next steps and further updates required will be better delivered towards the end of this financial year, as there will be significant progress to report back then.

Note: this will not adversely affect any applications for a PHB, as each will still be considered even though processes are still in development. NG CCG and Gateshead Council are both keen to ensure that a flexible approach is in place to facilitate personalised care.

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