



## **Stakeholder briefing**

### **NHS Durham Dales, Easington, Sedgefield CCG**

#### **Launch formal public consultation – ‘Improving 7 - Day Access’**

On Wednesday 7th November 2018 the CCG will launch a six week formal public consultation on proposals to change ‘7-Day Access to Primary Care Services’ across Durham Dales, Easington and Sedgefield.

Following public consultation the CCG introduced nine new ‘hubs’ across the area on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017 for same day appointments based on patient need. These services are not walk in services and need to be booked via NHS111.

The ‘hubs’ are GP practices or a group of practices working together offering additional appointments beyond 6pm on weekdays and additional appointments on a Saturday and Sunday to support local GP practices.

If a patient needs to be seen with a health issue between 8am – 6pm Monday to Friday they should call their GP surgery. Outside of these hours patients should call NHS 111 where they will be assessed on their condition and if appropriate directed to a ‘hub’ nearest to where they live to best meets their need.

There are currently nine ‘hubs’ across the CCG area, are based in:

- Stanhope
- Barnard Castle
- Bishop Auckland
- Spennymoor
- Newton Aycliffe
- Sedgefield
- Peterlee
- Seaham
- Easington

It was agreed to implement and then review the service after 6 and then 12 months of operation. This was to ensure the service covered the full winter period to truly understand the impact. In this review, the CCG looked at who used primary care services, when and why.

The need to change the service was established after reviewing the utilisation of each service and from the feedback from both the public and GP practices as well as taking into account activity to other services, for example A&E, capacity we created, practice requirements, value for money, transport support and pharmacy provision.

The review highlighted that many of the appointments made available are not being utilised and that capacity provided was double the national requirement. This is not a good use of NHS resources and the valuable skills of healthcare professionals.

In the consultation, the CCG wants to hear people's views about their recommendation to deliver **Improved 7 day access** in a reduced number of 'hubs' located in;

- Bishop Auckland (Dales area)
- Spennymoor/Newton Aycliffe and Sedgefield (Sedgefield area)
- Peterlee/Seaham (Easington area)

The CCG is keen to hear from local people about what other services could be delivered as part of the new service. We want to understand what else we would need to provide to ensure services are easy to access or if we have missed something key within our proposals. This could include home visits for the frail/elderly, pre-bookable appointments outside of GP practice hours, help with transport as an example.

A number of public meetings have been arranged, where people can find out more about the plans and have their say. People will also be able to complete a consultation survey online via the CCG website. The CCG will publish details about the consultation and how to get involved soon.

Please see more details at [www.durhamdaleseasingtonsedgfieldccg.nhs.uk](http://www.durhamdaleseasingtonsedgfieldccg.nhs.uk)

Our priority is to commission services that reflect the health needs of our entire population and it is clear from the numbers we are seeing in the current nine hubs that we need to change the service and make sure we are investing NHS funding wisely and providing services that meet real need.

Ends.