

4th February 2010

To SHA Chief Executives and
Directors of Commissioning

Gateway reference number: 13565

World class commissioning – January update

Please see below my update on world class commissioning for January 2010.

WCC assurance

WCC assurance process is well underway with a number of PCTs submitting their material.

As you are aware we have been having discussions with all SHAs about how we can ensure the panel days add most value to ensuring commissioning enables the delivery of increased quality and productivity, whilst at the same time providing the inputs required of the WCC assurance process.

In the main, we will be broadly retaining the current structure of the panel day, but ensure a greater emphasis on the discussion of the PCT's strategic commissioning plan and its' ability to deliver the QIPP agenda, the underpinning financial plans, being clear about the organisation's capability to deliver the plans and the need to urgently develop organisational capability where necessary.

As a result of these discussions, we have amended the panel day as follows:

- the time for discussion on the strategic plan and financial plans has been increased and will also allow time for “deep dives” into key transformational issues such as shifts in settings of care, commissioning of primary care, or commissioning of LTC; The consistency of these plans with the overall SHA approach to QIPP and the “fit” with the plans of other organisations within the local health economy must be demonstrated. PCTs will be expected to describe clearly how they are going to implement their plan , and that they have an understanding of their capacity and capability to do so. PCTs will need to demonstrate their plans for delivery are robust in the light of a 30% reduction in management costs.
- there will still be an assessment of competencies, with a clear emphasis on whether these are embedded and applied in practical terms in day to day commissioning activity. PCTs will need to demonstrate they have an understanding of whether they have the capabilities and capacity to deliver their strategic plan and the required

transformational changes. The panel's role in assessing competencies should focus only on where there are differences between the PCT's self assessment and the analysts' assessment, and/or where there are clear development requirements.

- the panel report should provide a clear description of the panel's assessment of the organisation's development requirements. The report should provide a detailed view on what the key areas are for organisational development, the PCT's existing gaps in capacity and capability to deliver, together with a robust timetable for remediation.

The modified panel day programme is attached at Annex A.

This provides a common basis for the panel days but SHAs may vary slightly in their implementation eg. timings may vary according to local circumstances, and some panels may wish to provide feedback to PCT CEOs and Chairs separately.

As previously communicated, PCTs should be focusing on the development and implementation of their plans and not investing resources on panel preparation.

Given the importance of WCC as described in the NHS Operating Framework from 2010 / 11, we are working with SHAs to ensure that calibration is strengthened to ensure it remains a transparent and robust process. Calibration will also reflect the different stages PCTs may be expected to be at in relation to their strategy and initiatives to deliver improved quality and increased productivity, depending on when their submission and panel days are.

For support on the assurance process including a list of FAQs, visit the assurance website, at: www.wccassurance.dh.gov.uk

Integrated Care Pilots (ICP)

We are pleased to announce the expansion of the programme of Integrated Care Pilots (ICP). Given the recent focus on integration within the NHS Operating Framework for 2010 /11 and the emphasis on the need for creative thinking in relation to the traditional interfaces between and within health and social care; now is an opportune moment to widen the community of integrated care.

The focus of the expansion will be on ambition and innovation. The most ambitious projects will not only be looking at integration within the health service or between health and social care, but might incorporate other sectors such as education, criminal justice, housing etc.

SHA integration leads have already been informed of the announcement and have been approached to recommend suitable applicants. We are looking to support innovative and ambitious projects and this is an excellent opportunity for such projects within your region to gain recognition for their work. Please email your recommendations to Integratedcare@dh.qsi.gov.uk

For further information please visit the DH website at <http://www.dh.gov.uk/integratedcare> or our dedicated ICP page on <http://www.integratedcarenetwork.gov.uk/icp>

Publication of 2008-09 Programme Budgeting PCT benchmarking tool

www.dh.gov.uk/worldclasscommissioning

PCT level Programme Budgeting expenditure data for the 2008-09 financial year was published on the Department of Health website on 14th January. The data is published in the form of an Excel based benchmarking tool containing estimated expenditure on programmes such as Mental Health and Cancer for financial years 2006-07 to 2008-09. It can be used to compare PCTs estimated expenditure, with PCTs locally, nationally or PCTs which exhibit similar characteristics.

Analytical products such as the Programme Budgeting tool and tools linking Programme Budgeting data to health outcomes such as the Spend and Outcomes Tool, the Programme Budgeting Atlases and NHS Comparators, have been identified as key in supporting PCTs in prioritising their investment; ensuring efficiency, effectiveness of spend and improving services. The tools can be accessed through the following webpage:

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Managingyourorganisation/Financeandplanning/Programmebudgeting/DH_075743

What's new on the WCC website

Recent additions on the WCC website for commissioners include a set of guidance documents on world class commissioning of Primary Care and Community Services:

- Improving quality in primary care
- Improving GP services
- Improving GP access and responsiveness
- Improving dental access, quality and oral health
- Improving pharmaceutical services
- Improving eye health services

Register online for updates: <http://wcc.networks.nhs.uk>

Specialist practice-based commissioning (PBC) resources and tools are available at <http://pbc.networks.nhs.uk>

We're continually looking at ways to improve the WCC Networks website, and your feedback and suggestions are essential to this. If you have any comments or ideas please e-mail worldclasscommissioning@dh.gsi.gov.uk with "WCC web ideas" in the subject.

Wheelchair and seating services survey

In 2006, the Department of Health (DH) undertook a review of wheelchair services across England. The reviewers proposed a new model for commissioning wheelchair services, which now needs to be refreshed. As part of this work, we need to find out how local wheelchair services are currently configured.

To assist us with this please visit the link below and complete a set of short questions, which should take no longer than 3 minutes. Your responses will be extremely helpful in giving us an up to date national picture.

The final date for returning your survey online is Monday 15th February. After this date, responses will be anonymised, collated and shared with all responding PCTs.

The Wheelchair and Seating Services Programme looks forward to hearing from you.
Complete the survey here: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/M837C9M>

Contact us

As always, we welcome feedback and comments from anyone interested in our work. If you have any queries or would like to find out more, you can either contact me directly, or use our dedicated mailbox: worldclasscommissioning@dh.gsi.gov.uk.

Yours faithfully

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