

18<sup>th</sup> March 2010

To SHA Chief Executives and  
Directors of Commissioning

Gateway reference number: 13973

## **World class commissioning – March update**

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

### **WCC assurance**

The WCC panels are now underway in a number of SHAs. The panel guide is available on the networks site <http://wcc.networks.nhs.uk/panel> for information. There is a robust calibration process in place, which reviews results at SHA level as the analysis and panels take place. National calibration will take place at an event on June 7th and will be chaired by Gary Belfield, Acting Director General, Commissioning & System Management.

For year 2 of assurance (2009-10), we have agreed with the Audit Commission (AC) and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) a clear, transparent and aligned approach between the three regulatory systems for sharing and using ratings and evidence used from each to inform the others. The detail of how the exchange of inputs between the AC and WCC will work in practice is outlined below. We have now received the first set of KLOE scores to feed into WCC in as follows:

- 1.3 - Financial reporting; as an input into Finance (robust financial management)
- 2.4 - Internal control; as an input into Board (risk)
- 2.2 - Data; as an input into Competency 1

This will be fed into the analysis, panels or regional calibration depending on where each SHA is in the process. These scores may be updated later in the year on an exception basis as a result of the Audit Commission's quality control process and to ensure consistency.

While the Audit Commission will not be assessing KLOE 2.1 (Commissioning) as part of Use of Resources appointed auditors still have a statutory duty to consider this criterion when reporting on whether PCTs have proper arrangements for achieving value for money – the value for money conclusion. Auditors will primarily use the rating given to the strategic plan by the panel to form their judgement. Broadly, a rating of red in WCC would

constitute a fail and amber and green would constitute a pass. Where a PCT has been rated as amber or green, auditors will assess whether the PCT's strategy is robust, by examining the PCT's track record in achievement against the priorities set out in the PCT's 2009 / 2010 annual operating plan. Strategy ratings will be provided to the Audit Commission by the central team after regional calibration, and in the event of any changes, at national calibration, the Audit Commission will be notified in early June. The Audit Commission has produced their guidance for auditors on how these factors should be taken into account in concluding that the PCT's arrangements are satisfactory. Auditors will discuss their conclusions with PCTs to ensure there are no surprises.

The Audit Commission will also use WCC panel assessments as follows:

Finance (sustainable financial position, base case and scenarios) robustness of financial planning assumptions and the consistency of the strategy with the financial plan as inputs into KLOE 1.1 (financial plan).

The Board elements relating to organisation, information, performance, delegation and Board interaction as inputs into KLOE 2.3 (good governance).

We will continue to work with the Audit Commission to ensure there is clear alignment between all the regulatory processes so that we keep the burden on PCTs to a minimum, and ensure we all get the added value of the different systems.

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

## **Practice-based commissioning (PBC)**

The closing date for responses to Wave 2 of the new practice-based commissioning survey was 3rd March. The results are now being analysed and will be published on 23rd March.

The results of Wave 1 of the survey, which were published on 8 December 2009, can be viewed at:

[http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH\\_109768](http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_109768)

The PBC National Clinical Network and the PBC SHA Leads Network met again on 3rd March, and discussion items included examining the contribution of PBC in shaping the Transforming Community Services programme, NHS Comparators and the quality & productivity agenda.

Contact the PBC team for further information – [pbcc@dh.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:pbcc@dh.gsi.gov.uk)

## **Integrated Care Pilots (ICP)**

We are continuing to promote the new extended community announced on 2nd February 2010 by Care Services Minister Phil Hope and Health Minister Mike O' Brien. We are looking for ambitious and innovative projects to join the extended community of integrated care. New sites will be able to join the community by completing and submitting the self-assessment tool found on the integrated care pilot's webpage on the DH website.

[http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Healthcare/IntegratedCare/Integratedcarepilots/DH\\_111797](http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Healthcare/IntegratedCare/Integratedcarepilots/DH_111797)

[www.dh.gov.uk/worldclasscommissioning](http://www.dh.gov.uk/worldclasscommissioning)

The most ambitious projects will not just encompass health and social care organisations, but will include other sectors such as housing, education and criminal justice. We would welcome recommendations of suitable projects to the email address listed below.

A successful national learning event for all 16 pilots took place on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> March and gave them the opportunity to network and share best practice with each other. Delegates heard from site representatives at all levels from front-line clinical staff and social workers to executive directors. The enthusiasm from all involved demonstrated the importance of multi-disciplinary working and the benefits gained from partnership working across staff groups, organisations and hierarchies. The sites fed back that there were aspects of the other pilots they would adopt and went away with new contacts and areas for development.

For further information please visit the DH website at <http://www.dh.gov.uk/integratedcare> or contact the ICP team at [integratedcare@dh.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:integratedcare@dh.gsi.gov.uk)

## **What's new on the WCC website**

Recent addition to the resources section on the WCC website:

Improving the health and wellbeing of people with a long term condition - information tool for commissioners

This publication describes what a good Long Term Condition (LTC) service should look like and suggests actions to take to commission world class services. The actions are linked to each stage of the commissioning cycle and can support achievement of WCC competencies and, the quality and productivity challenge.

Commissioning leads are advised to refer to this information when planning delivery of services for people with long term conditions.

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>

## **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](mailto:worldclasscommissioning@dh.gsi.gov.uk)

Yours faithfully

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