

## Update on Alternative Provider Medical Services Contracts Middlesbrough

### 1. Background

Across the North East and Cumbria, NHS England has been reviewing Alternative Provider Medical Service (APMS) contracts for general practice that are coming to an end.

These contracts were established on a time-limited basis (unlike the majority of general practice contracts that run “in perpetuity”) in 2008 and a decision needs to be taken on whether or not these contracts are meeting the needs of the local population, demonstrating value-for-money for the taxpayer and offer a sustainable/viable business for the provider/potential providers of the service.

There are a number of potential options open to NHS England when considering the future of all APMS contracts:

- Re-procuring and letting a new contract for the service on a like-for-like basis
- Re-procuring a similar service but operated under a different service model (e.g. encouraging the practice to run as a branch surgery/outreach service of a larger practice)
- Ending the contract and supporting patients to register with other nearby practices (with the other practices receiving payment to enable them to increase their current capacity)

In Middlesbrough, there are two APMS contracts under review:

- Resolution Health Care Practice, North Ormesby Health Village, Middlesbrough - current list size of 4205 (as at 1 Oct 14), contract end date 31/03/2015, services provided include core services, walk in services and the practice opening hours are 8am -8pm (365 days per year).
- Hemlington, Viewley Centre, Hemlington, Middlesbrough - current list size of 1816 (as at 1 Oct 14), contract end date 06 December 2014, services provided are equivalent to core GMS.

## 2. Current Position

NHS England has recently concluded consultations on these practices where views were sought from patients and a range of stakeholders to inform the decision-making process around the future of these contracts.

Having reviewed the information received during these consultations, NHS England heard the following key messages:

- The practices serve populations with a high degree of health need
- Information has been received in relation to an increase in planned housing of 2114 homes which are to be built in the area with 1162 local to Hemlington Grange.
- Patients value the services currently delivered at these practices
- The patient list size at the Hemlington practice has remained low compared to the planned list size of 6000 patients.

In light of these findings, NHS England is proposing the following as the way forward for these contracts:

### Resolution Practice

- Look to extend the current contract until 31/03/2016
- Further review the contract with the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) to fully understand the CCGs future requirement with regards to the Walk In element
- Conduct more extensive engagement activities with patients, patient representative groups and other stakeholders (in particular Middlesbrough LA) on the future primary care needs of the patients registered at the practice
- Re-commission the registered patient element (core service)

### Hemlington Practice

- Look to extend the current contract until 06/12/2015
- conduct more extensive engagement activities with patients, patient representative groups and other stakeholders (in particular Middlesbrough CCG and Middlesbrough LA) on the future primary care needs of the patients registered with the practice currently
- based on this engagement work, develop a revised set of proposals for a sustainable service that represents value-for-money for the tax payer to bring before the scrutiny committee

- re-consult on these new proposals (if necessary) prior to the practice contract ending in December 2015

If the current providers do not wish to extend their contracts, then the Area Team will need to consider the risk this presents to patients registered at these practices and look to take steps to ensure that they will still be able to receive high quality primary care services.

### **3. Summary**

Whilst these steps do not change the challenges that practices with small list sizes face (either in retaining or attracting staff or providing an attractive business proposition to potential bidders for the contracts), the Area Team hopes that the outlined proposals will give the scrutiny committee assurance that the decisions on the contracts will be made on the best evidence and most accurate insight for the benefit of the patients that use this service.