

CCG News



About the CCG

The Health and Social Care Act sets out a number of changes to the way the NHS is managed. The changes will see local GPs and clinicians take more control of budgets and make decisions about what services to provide to their local community.

By April 2013, Primary Care Trusts will cease to exist and local Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) will take over many of their responsibilities.

The national changes will also see certain public health functions currently carried out by the PCT transfer into local authorities and the setting up of new local Health and Wellbeing Boards.

Dudley CCG represents the 52 GP practices in the area, serving a very diverse population of approximately 312,000 people.

All Clinical Commissioning Groups have to be authorised by the Department of Health before they can become fully operational in April 2013. Since April 2012 Dudley CCG has been operating in shadow form, this means that it is working closely with Dudley PCT officers and has been delegated the budget to commission local services which will formally transfer to the organisation in April 2013 in preparation for next year.

Once authorised, the CCG will be responsible for funding local services such as dementia care, hospitals and community health services. The CCG will be working closely with the NHS organisations that run these services, such as hospitals, to ensure a smooth transition.

Over the last year the Clinical Commissioning Group has made significant progress in preparing for taking over from PCTs in 2013. A Board with Dr David Hegarty as Chair and Kimara Sharpe taking on the role as Interim Senior Responsible Officer.

As the CCG will not be fully authorised until most likely 2013, the Board has been given delegated authority from the PCT. This means it is a sub-committee of the PCT and has been given a delegated budget of £380 million for commissioning services.

CCG Board

The CCG Board is currently made up of the following members:



Dr David Hegarty
Chair, Dudley CCG



Dr Jas Rathore
Clinical Executive -
Finance & Performance



Dr Steve Mann
Clinical Executive - Acute
& Community Commissioning



Dr Liz Pope
Clinical Executive -
Quality & Safety



Dr Ruth Edwards
Board Member



Dr P D Gupta
Board Member



Dr Richard Johnson
Board Member



Dr Mona Mahfouz
Board Member



Dr Nick Plant
Clinical Executive - Partnerships
& Joint Commissioning



Dr Jonathan Darby
Board Member



Carol Jones
Practice Manager - Board Member



Mary Akufo-Tetteh
Practice Nurse - Board Member



Steve Wellings
Independent Committee
Member (ICM)



Jason Hall
Independent Committee
Member (ICM)



Kimara Sharpe
Interim Senior
Responsible Officer



Neill Bucktin
Head of Partnership
Commissioning



Alison Tennant
Head of Service Improvement
and Quality



Matthew Hartland
Interim Chief
Financial Officer

In Attendance David Farnsworth (Quality Lead) Laura Broster (Communications) Richard Gee (GP Engagement Lead)

Our Vision and Values

Vision:

To promote good health and ensure high quality health services for the people of Dudley.

Values:

We will be a caring organisation.

(Caring and supportive of individuals both staff and patients, and seek to ensure excellent experience of services.)

We will be a patient-centred organisation.

(Doing things 'with you' not 'to you', acting as advocates for patients, helping patients care for themselves.)

We will work together as teams within the organisation and with partners.

(Sharing good practice, improving integration, taking shared pride in work, winning hearts and minds to work collaboratively.)

Quality and safety will be the foundation of everything we do.

(We will have high standards of quality and morality. We will aim to be the best at what we do. We will commission high quality, safe services.)

We will be an organisation which leads by example.

(We will be clinically-led for improved outcomes for patients. We will have visible leaders who display high levels of integrity and openness, and who are trusted.)

We will be a learning organisation.

(We will have a philosophy of accepting the past, forgiving and moving on. We will support individual learning. We will be outward looking. We will support and empower staff. We will actively listen and learn from others.)

We will be an inclusive organisation.

(We will uphold the principles of equality and diversity. We will be respectful and impartial in our dealings. We will recognise vulnerability.)

We will have a focus on prevention and health promotion.

(We will seek to educate our population. We will support initiatives which promote health, prevent ill-health and support people to live longer and with a better quality of life.)

We will be an innovative organisation.

(We will seek to be leading edge and embrace innovation and new technology. We will seek to work smarter not harder and modernise healthcare provision.)

We will promote excellent financial management.

(We will ensure value for money and financial viability.)

Thinking Differently

CCG achieves financial targets

Over the past 12 months, the CCG has been managing the majority of the Dudley PCT budget.

This money, £380m represents around 75% of the total budget used to buy healthcare services in Dudley. The CCG has taken this responsibility very seriously and whilst under the oversight of Dudley PCT Board, they are on target to end the financial year to 31st March 2012 with a surplus of around £725,000.

Dr Jas Rathore, Clinical Executive for Finance and Performance at Dudley CCG said, *"The organisation has had a successful year regarding financial performance. With responsibility for over £380m of public money, the CCG has met financial targets showing that even during a time where there has been significant demand on health services, we have been able to look at the efficiencies which can be found and met our desire to develop new services to meet the needs of local people."*

The CCG is now preparing the financial plan for the next financial year which will see them holding a budget of £406m or on average £1,325 for every Dudley person.

How to get involved and make your voice heard

The community engagement team have been working with a wide range of patients, community groups, individuals and the voluntary sector to look at how meaningful engagement can best take place with the CCG. The CCG are committed to listening to patient views and would like to have a patient representative that sits on the board with them.

Several meetings have taken place where ideas have been discussed. We have looked at how we engage at the moment with our local population and looked at ideas on how this can improve and we have looked at the role of the representative that sits on the Board.

It's easy for you to get involved and have your say – either contact the team on **01384 322056** and we can arrange to visit your group before the end of May or you can give us your views over the telephone.

Alternatively you can give us your opinion online by following this link:
<http://www.dudleysurveys.nhs.uk/TakeSurvey.asp?PageNumber=1&SurveyID=3515n30J4n6KG>

More on the CCG

As part of the changes with the NHS reforms and the journey with the CCGs, there will be partners to work with in achieving high quality services for all.



The CCG will work closely with the local Health and Wellbeing Board. Health and wellbeing boards will be a forum for local commissioners across the NHS, public health and social care, elected representatives and representatives of HealthWatch to discuss how to work together to better the health and wellbeing outcomes of the people in their area. The forum will provide an opportunity for challenge and look to improving the integration of services that patients receive. HealthWatch will evolve from the Local Involvement Networks (LINks) in 2013.

HealthWatch will provide fresh opportunities for people to have their say about the quality and development of their local health and adult social care services.

HealthWatch will take on all current LINK functions, build upon what is already working well and have a specific focus on the need to be representative of diverse communities. HealthWatch is independent of the NHS and the local authority are responsible for appointing an organisation that will take HealthWatch forward.

Dudley CCG -

Achieving maximum benefit and quality of care

Dudley CCG is committed to driving up the quality of healthcare available for Dudley people. The NHS is publicly funded and as such the CCG are aware that every penny of your money should be spent wisely and spent to achieve the best possible clinical outcomes.

In the NHS, as with every large organisation, there is a need to constantly innovate, to look over existing processes and ways of doing things to ensure that they are being done the best way and to reduce any wastage. A fairly new term, QIPP, is now used frequently in the NHS to describe the principles behind much of the CCGs work today. QIPP (Quality, Innovation, Productivity and Prevention) is improving the quality of care that services deliver while making efficiency savings that can be reinvested in the service to deliver year on year quality improvements.

The challenge is how do you create an environment in which change and improvement can flourish, ensures that staff are given the tools, techniques and support needed to improve the quality of care they provide, whilst also being cost effective?

Here in Dudley the CCG are demonstrating that this can happen.

In the last 12 months the CCG in Dudley has delivered a QIPP programme which has included the following schemes.

Where required, projects have been informed by local people, healthcare professionals and clinicians who's suggestions have shaped the vision of services and in total £6.4m has been saved. This is above the target saving of £6m. This money is now being reinvested into frontline services such as:

More effective prescribing of drugs in GP Practices (£1.5m)

Introducing minor surgery at GP Practices instead of at the hospital (£320k)

Stopping procedures which have limited clinical value such as the removal of varicose veins (£370k)

Over the next financial year the CCG plans to save and reinvest £5.8m through new QIPP schemes which include:

Making the outpatient system at the hospital more effective for patients, such as improving the quality of information available at the first appointment to reduce the number of unnecessary follow up appointments (£1.5m)

Managing inappropriate A & E attendances, such as people who frequently call an ambulance or attend A&E for reasons other than clinical. We are also working with Care Homes to ensure that they are not sending people into hospital unless absolutely necessary (£500k)

Each of the schemes is championed by a Clinical lead and the CCG has adopted the principle of collaboration and partnership working with colleagues in the local Hospital and Council to ensure that the quality of care continues to improve and that your money is spent appropriately on the services which offer the best outcomes.

Matt Hartland, Chief Finance Officer for the CCG, said, "There is no doubt that we are operating in a financially challenging time. With savings targets of around £5.6million to be made from 2012/13, the local health economy has some difficult times ahead.

"Here at the CCG, we have a series of savings plans in place to ensure we meet the required challenges without affecting the level of service local residents receive. Throughout all of our savings plans is a commitment to ensuring that we improve quality and reduce duplication and wastage across the health economy in the borough. This is being led by my clinical colleagues in the CCG with the support of our GP colleagues across Dudley, the local Hospital Trust and of course with the involvement of local residents across the Borough."

Patient Panels

Did you know that many of the GP surgeries in the borough have a patient panel? The panels are made up of local patients who are registered at that surgery and they meet regularly to discuss issues that affect that surgery and to find out more about what is happening with health locally. Meetings are usually very informal, friendly and relaxed. Some surgeries even have 'virtual' panels where people can put across their views through email. To find out if your surgery has a panel, just contact the surgery and speak to a member of staff.

Ambulatory Blood Pressure Machines for GP Practices In Dudley



A portable machine which can help diagnose hypertension is being handed over to every GP Practice in the borough by Dudley Clinical Commissioning Group.

Currently, anyone suspected of having hypertension or high blood pressure is diagnosed by a GP with an inflatable arm cuff, after being invited back to the surgery for additional readings so that an average measurement can be calculated.

In a change to the existing national guidelines, it is now recommended that a diagnosis of hypertension should be made using 24-hour ambulatory blood pressure monitoring (ABPM). This should be offered to patients who have a blood pressure reading of 140/90 mmHg or higher when taken in the practice.

Patients in Dudley suspected of having hypertension will be sent home by their GP and asked to wear a monitor for 24 hours, rather than having their blood pressure checked in the clinic. The process will involve the patient wearing a mobile blood pressure monitor that straps around the waist and records numerous blood pressure measurements throughout the day and night.

Because the test is being carried out to find out what their normal daily blood pressure is, they will be asked to carry on with their normal routine and do all the things they would normally do. At the end of the 24 hours patients will return to the surgery to have the machine removed. The machine will have stored all of the readings which will then be analysed by the GP.

The use of the new monitors will help to avoid what is called the white coat effect, which is when a patient is nervous or anxious about having their blood pressure tested by a doctor or nurse. The term "white coat" comes from references to the white coats traditionally worn by doctors and means that blood pressure is higher when it is taken in a medical setting than it is when taken in a patients home. It is thought that up to a quarter of patients experience the white coat effect.

Dr Jas Rathore, Clinical Executive, Dudley CCG said:

"Blood pressure is highly variable so we never make a diagnosis using a single reading, patients are currently asked to come in and see their GP on at least 2 further occasions. With ABPM machines, blood pressure can be monitored throughout the day in the patients natural environment and the results are available after a single day. The use of the machines across the borough will be very cost effective by reducing the number of unnecessary consultations and ensuring that only the patients who require treatment receive it."

Dudley CCG have arranged training and allocation of the machines to take place in May 2012, larger practices will receive an extra machine.



Dates for your diary

Healthcare Forum

Dudley Clinical Commissioning Group invites all members of the public to join them at the next Healthcare Forum meeting due to take place on Tuesday 15th May at Saltwells Education Centre in Netherton at 4.00pm.

In May the forum will focus on screening for abdominal aortic aneurysms, the cost and implications when people use health services frequently and looking at the alternatives to dialling 999.

Members of the public are encouraged to come along and join them for a friendly and informative session and give them your views and opinions. A light buffet supper and refreshments will be available. For more information or to book a place, please contact the Community Engagement Team on [01384 322056](tel:01384322056).

CCG Public Board Dates

The CCG's first public board meeting will take place on: Thursday 7th June 2012, 1.00pm – 3.30pm, Kings House, Dudley

'Nothing about you, without you'

The CCG are keen to listen and work together with local patients, carers, people and the wider community to look at local health issues and to understand what is really important to you. You are invited to join them at 11am on Thursday June 14th at Dudley Concert Hall.

Come and meet the clinicians and the teams, find out more about them and what is happening locally with healthcare in your area. There will be fun and interactive workshops for all ages so come and join us for the day! Lunch will be included and health checks and information will also be available. To find out more or book a place, please contact the Community Engagement Team on [01384 322056](tel:01384322056).

Quality and Safety

The CCG has quality at the heart of everything it does. It has signed up to five 'ambitions' which are as follows:

1. Eliminating avoidable pressure ulcers

Pressure ulcers clearly affect the health and wellbeing of patients and families, and impacts health and social care services at all levels. The CCG is now ensuring that everyone works to support a reduction in avoidable pressure damage across the Health Economy.

2. Making every contact count

This initiative is designed to ensure that health care professionals use every opportunity to work with patients to develop healthier lifestyles. So in every consultation, we are aiming for patients to be able to discuss healthier living with their healthcare professional and be able, if appropriate, obtain advice as to how to live a healthier life.

3. Significantly improve quality and safety in Primary Care

90% of people in Dudley will visit their GP in a two year period. We need to ensure that the care that your GP gives you is of the highest possible standard and are working with GPs across the borough with this in mind.

4. Ensuring radically strengthened partnership between the NHS and Local Government

The CCG recognises that they need to work with colleagues in Local Government to ensure that the people of Dudley get a joined up service. Relationships with local government are good and we are working to improve them, including working to develop the new Health and Wellbeing Board.

5. Create a revolution in patient and customer experience

We all believe that we must ensure that the experience our patients have with any part of our health service must be excellent and we are working to improve that experience. We are also working with our hospitals and community staff to capture information so as we can further understand the experience that patients are getting.

Dr Liz Pope, Clinical Executive, said: *'I am delighted with the work that we are doing on improving quality and safety with our hospitals and community staff. Everyone is committed to this very important area and I am looking forward to continuing this work as the CCG develops'.*

