

NHS England Accountability Meeting

Tuesday 22 July 2014

16:00-17:30

MINUTES

Department of Health
Earl Howe, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Quality (Chair)
Norman Lamb, Minister of State for Care Services
Dan Poulter, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Health
Una O'Brien CB, Permanent Secretary
Richard Douglas, Director General, Finance and NHS
Ed Jones, Special Adviser to the Secretary of State
Gareth Arthur, Deputy Director, Commissioning Policy and Sponsorship
Head of NHS England Sponsorship (Secretary)
Private Secretary, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Quality
Assistant Private Secretary, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Health
NHS England
Professor Sir Malcolm Grant, Chair
Simon Stevens, Chief Executive
Dame Barbara Hakin, National Director, Commissioning Operations
Jane Cummings, Chief Nursing Officer
Paul Baumann, Chief Financial Officer
Ian Dodge, National Director, Commissioning Strategy
System Alignment Team Member
Chair and Chief Executive's Office representative

Agenda item 1: matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting on 20th May 2014

Specialised commissioning

1. SIMON STEVENS tabled proposals to increase patient benefit through bringing together CCG and NHS England specialised commissioning of patient pathways.
2. THE PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR QUALITY welcomed NHS England consideration of this issue, and asked NHS England and Department of Health officials to explore these proposals in more detail, in order to develop detailed options for ministers to consider what might be both desirable and possible for 2015/16 and beyond. He emphasised the importance of delivering equality of access and standards of care. He also emphasised the importance of engaging stakeholders and clinicians in developing the proposals.

ACTION: NHS England and the Department of Health to develop proposals for ministers to consider.

Agenda item 2: Mandate assurance: Transforming Care

3. The MINISTER OF STATE FOR CARE SERVICES reiterated his disappointment about the delays in meeting the June 2014 Transforming Care commitments, but said that he was encouraged by the progress made in the last few months. He emphasised the need for commitments made in the August action plan to be delivered on schedule.
4. The CHIEF NURSING OFFICER outlined work in hand in this area, the contribution being made by the third sector, families and user representatives, and a summit planned to bring together wider stakeholders. Every patient now had a case coordinator; a second clinical opinion service had been developed; and tracking was in place around assessment and discharge. An action plan was on track for publication by the end of August.

ACTION - NHS England to share draft action plan with DH, and publish action plan by the end of August.

5. The CHIEF NURSING OFFICER said that plans for longer term improvements to commissioning and provision were also under development with stakeholder involvement. She outlined the role of Sir Stephen Bubb.

ACTION - NHS England to send the MINISTER OF STATE FOR CARE SERVICES the terms of reference for Sir Stephen's work.

Mandate assurance: Children and Young People

6. The PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR HEALTH described the need to improve services and outcomes for children and young people, the challenges involved and asked NHS England to outline their plans.
7. The PERMANENT SECRETARY also set out the importance of having a vision for the longer-term as well as individual projects.
8. The CHIEF NURSING OFFICER outlined work underway.

ACTION - The CHIEF NURSING OFFICER to meet the PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR HEALTH every couple of months to discuss NHS England progress on implementing their business plan commitments on children and young people's health.

9. The MINISTER OF STATE FOR CARE SERVICES asked when the three recommendations for immediate implementation from the recent tier 4 CAMHS report would be delivered.

ACTION - NHS England to write to MS(CS).

10. The MINISTER OF STATE FOR CARE SERVICES asked what NHS England were doing to tackle disinvestment in alternatives to tier 4 by CCGs and local authorities.
11. SIMON STEVENS highlighted the role of the taskforce to be jointly chaired by the Department and NHS England in looking at this issue and explained that NHS England were establishing a CAMHS network group to support this.
12. Progress in preparing for the September implementation of joint health, care and education plans for children with special educational needs was discussed. The PERMANENT SECRETARY asked whether NHS England could explore ways of tracking family experience of changes.

ACTION – CHIEF NURSING OFFICER to explore how changes to families' experience could be monitored.

13. The PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR HEALTH asked for an update on the service specifications being developed around transition, and any wider work underway to support children transitioning to adult services.

ACTION – CHIEF NURSING OFFICER to provide an update.

14. In response to questions from the PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR HEALTH, the CHIEF NURSING OFFICER stated that there had been an issue with the spine for the child protection information system, resulting in a one month delay, but that otherwise delivery was on track.

Agenda item 3: Finance

15. PAUL BAUMANN outlined key risk areas for 2014/15 and 2015/16, including specialised commissioning, emergency activity, cancer drugs fund and CHC legacy provisions; and actions being taken to mitigate these risks. There was some discussion about these risks and the actions being taken by both organisations.
16. SIMON STEVENS said that he strongly welcomed constructive engagement across Government on how to operationalise the Better Care Fund.
17. The PERMANENT SECRETARY praised NHS England for their achievement in finalising and laying their annual accounts before Parliament on schedule.

Agenda Item 4: AoB

GP Patient Survey

18. BARBARA HAKIN outlined the steps that NHS England were taking to improve patients' experience of primary and out of hours care. This included improving GP access through incentives in the GP contract, PM Challenge fund.

ACTION: IAN DODGE to brief the PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY FOR QUALITY as thinking develops on further steps that might be taken.