

**Health Scrutiny Committee
Overview Paper
Any Qualified Provider (AQP).**

1. Introduction

The purpose of this paper is to provide the Health Scrutiny Committee with an update on work undertaken by NHS Nottingham City Clinical Commissioning Group and the Nottinghamshire PCT Cluster on Any Qualified Provider (AQP). The last update to the Health Scrutiny Committee was in July 2012.

2. Background

The Department of Health issued guidance on Extending Patient Choice of Provider on 19 July 2011, which set out proposals for a phased implementation of AQP, treating 2012/13 as a transitional year, starting with a limited set of community and some mental health services. The guidance required commissioners to identify 3 or more community or mental health services in which to implement AQP from April 2012, and following local patient engagement, the services chosen were:

1. Podiatry
2. Psychological Therapies
3. Diagnostics (Ultrasound)

3. Governance Arrangements for AQP

The PCT cluster is responsible for coordinating the approach to AQP and a cluster wide Programme Board has been established to oversee the implementation of AQP. Within NHS Nottingham City CCG, each AQP area has a lead manager and a lead member of the GP Executive.

4. Service Specifications

National Service Specifications has been produced for each AQP area, which have been reviewed by the CCG AQP leads, working collaboratively with AQP leads across Nottingham County and the wider East Midlands to ensure there is consistency of approach. The national specifications for each AQP service were approved by the Clinical Commissioning Executive Committee in May 2012.

5. Evaluation of Providers

The evaluation of AQP submissions is undertaken in 3 parts. Part 1 is undertaken by the Department of Health and Parts 2 and 3 are undertaken by local commissioners and clinicians with support from Regional Qualification Centers.

6. Update on AQP Services

Podiatry

7 providers have been approved to provide podiatry services in Nottingham City. These are;

1. Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust
2. Chiropody
3. Leicestershire Partnership Trust
4. Concordia
5. Nottingham CityCare Partnership
6. South West Yorkshire Partnership Trust
7. Derbyshire Community Health

Services will be provided from a wide range of locations both within the City (11 separate locations) and outside of the City (33 separate locations across Nottinghamshire County, Leicestershire and Derbyshire)

AQP services, which will include the ability for patients to self refer, will commence from the 1st December 2012 and choice of provider will be offered to patients via the Nottingham City Clinical Assessment Service (CAS).

Ultrasound

2 providers had been approved to provide AQP Direct Access Ultrasound. They are

1. Global Diagnostics Ltd
2. Care UK Clinical Services

Both Care UK and Global Diagnostics will commence service delivery from December 2012 from the following locations across the City

1. Mary Potter Centre
2. Churchfield Medical Centre
3. Clifton Medical Practice
4. Hucknall Road Medical Centre

The CCG is working with new providers to identify suitable premises in the Bilborough / Aspley and St Anne/Sneinton areas.

Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust, who currently provide the direct access Ultrasound service decided not to bid to be an AQP provider. This is due to an increasing demand on their Ultrasound service to support their out-patient and in-patient services. NUH will however continue to provide the service until the end of March 2013 to ensure there is a smooth transition to new providers. All new AQP providers have the required IM&T infrastructure to ensure that all images and reports can be forwarded onto secondary care if onward referral is required.

A second AQP window was opened on 15th October 2012 and closed on the 9th November 2012. A total of 9 applications have been received for the City. Evaluation of all applications is scheduled to be completed before Christmas with contracts awarded by 28th December 2012.

The new AQP service requires providers to have an average waiting time of 10 working days and a maximum waiting time of 20 working days from referral to scan.

Psychological Therapies

2 provider have been approved to provide AQP Psychological Therapies; they are

1. Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust
2. MHCO (Joint venture between Mental Health Concerns & Oakdale Care)

Contracts have been signed with both providers and AQP services will commence from the 1st January 2013. Locations from which services will be provided are still being finalized but these will be spread across the city.

Teresa Cope
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20th November 2012.