

**Northern CCG Joint Committee****12<sup>th</sup> November, 2020****Regional Value Based Commissioning and Individual Funding Request Programme Update****Background**

The previously agreed programme of work has been significantly delayed as a result of the Covid pandemic. While significant progress was made we will need to take the opportunity to review the subsequent actions required.

In March 2020 NHS England and NHS Improvement made the following decisions which have impacted on the progress in our region:

1. Prior approval programmes were ceased with immediate effect to remove the administrative burden on providers at a time when block contracts were implemented across all providers.
2. Evidence Based Interventions (EBI) phase 2 consultation was paused

NECS development of a new IFR digital system was able to be concluded however this has not been tested or rolled-out as it was determined that the timing would not be appropriate given the pandemic.

**Impact on Local Delivery**

During the pandemic the resources of health systems has naturally been focussed on supporting a range of priorities which has not included the VBC/IFR work streams. The impacts have been:

1. The further development of the Regional VBC Policy has been paused while the EBI phase 2 consultation and policy development is concluded.
2. The roll-out of the new IFR system has been deferred until it would be appropriate to train primary and secondary care administrators and clinicians on the use of the system.

**Next Steps**

The timelines for delivery of the next steps for this programme of work will be determined by the pandemic situation. It is understood that EBI Phase 2 policy will be concluded in late November 2020 which will enable the VBC Steering Group to review the requirements and implement as part of the April 2021 Regional Policy.

We will need to be mindful of the future contracting arrangements in light of covid and how we ensure that the appropriate activity baselines are included in contracts for those procedures which are impacted by local and national contracts.

CCGs in the region will need to make a decision on the timing of the roll-out of the new IFR system.

**Dr Matthew Walmsley****28 October, 2020**