

Northern CCG Joint Committee

Date of meeting: 12th November 2020

Does paper need to be circulated before the agenda goes out (i.e. earlier than 10 working days prior to the meeting) (please circle): **/No**

Title of report: Future Reporting Arrangements for NCNE Prescribing Forum

Purpose of report:

This paper seeks to clarify and confirm the reporting arrangements of the North Cumbria and North East Prescribing Forum and to clarify process for agreeing joint funding which may be needed for initiatives which are to be delivered across multiple CCGs.

TOR and lines of reporting:

The North East and North Cumbria Prescribing Forum was formed with the agreement of the Northern CCG forum to discuss prescribing and Medicines Optimisation issues which were common to all CCGs and to help facilitate a consistent at scale approach. Over the past three years numerous joint initiatives have been discussed, agreed and implemented by the Prescribing Forum across the NCNE footprint. The headline initiatives of electronic Repeat Dispensing, Self-Care for common conditions and a common approach to gluten free prescribing have shown measurable savings to the prescribing budget of £2.69million.

Initially the Prescribing Forum was chaired by Dr Graham Syers (GP Prescribing, Northumberland CCG) with a membership which includes Prescribing Leads, Medical Directors and Medicines Optimisation Pharmacists from CCGs and NECS. In addition to this there is Chief Finance Officer and AHSN representation. In October 2019 Dr Syers stood down from chairing the forum due to CCG commitments and since then the forum has been chaired by Ian Morris (Chief Pharmacist and Senior Clinical Services Manager, NECS) who had acted as professional secretary to the Forum for the past 5 years. It was also agreed by the forum that additional changes would include the simplification of the agenda, use of video conferencing, standing down some projects which had ran their course, and look at how GP attendance could be improved.

A further complicating factor has been the changes in the wider NHS architecture meaning ICP and PCNs have changed the primary care landscape. Since Covid 19 and subsequent lockdown the Prescribing Forum has continued to meet via MS Teams and this has served to increase the attendance at the meeting due to the reduced need to travel and the shortened agenda has also meant that meetings can be completed within 2 hrs.

In the past the Prescribing Forum has reported into the CNE Elective Care Demand Management Delivery Group, but following the dissolution of that group a paper was submitted to the CCG Joint Committee in June 2019 to ask that that the CNE Prescribing Forum should change to report to the CCG Joint Committee.

At the same time however the ICS was part of a National pilot initiative known as “Integrating Pharmacy and Medicines Optimisation (IPMO)” initiative. This pilot looked at a system wide reporting process for medicines committees, and suggested that CNE Prescribing Forum may end up reporting into a proposed group called the NENC ICS Pharmacy and Medicines Strategy Group (which itself reported to the NENC ICS Optimising Health Services group). This group however was never established and national guidance has now been issued as a result of the IPMO pilots (see appendix 3). It is acknowledged that future changes may be needed in light of this guidance.

As a result of these various changes confirmation is requested regarding reporting arrangements.

Joint initiatives:

As can be seen from appendix 1 there has been numerous successes in the past from a joint approach across CCGs prescribing initiatives. Looking forward there is already discussion regarding further projects such as opiate reduction campaigns and working together on joint challenges such as national diabetes guidance. For the Opiate campaign this is looking at current initiatives which have already been delivered at a CCG level but would benefit from scaling up across the NCNE area so would benefit from having a single forum where these could be agreed if funding was needed.

In light of this confirmation is sought on the process to follow in order to get high level shared buy in to regional projects and have a similar approach if joint funding may be needed.

Recommendations:

Is the paper for (please tick):

- Decision-making
- Information Sharing
- Discussion

Actions required by Northern CCG Joint Committee:

1. It is recommended that CCGs continue to support the need for the collaborative approach of the Prescribing Forum and support representation by nominated GPs/Pharmacists from their organisations.
2. Given the successes of the Prescribing Forum (see appendix 1) and its collaborative approach it is recommended that the reporting arrangements are confirmed as being to the Northern CCG Joint Committee.

3. Agree that Terms of reference (see appendix 2) are to be reviewed – it is recommended that this will be done once confirmation of reporting arrangements have been made.
4. Agree to the change in the chairing arrangements to allow the current arrangement to continue.
5. Confirm the process for seeking and agreeing support and joint funding (if this is needed) where initiatives will involve NCNE CCGs working together on a common issue.

Appendices:

Appendix 1



Prescribing Forum
report to Demand Ma

Appendix 2



CNE Prescribing
Forum TOR - Sept 17

Appendix 3



Appendix 3 - IPMO
Guidance - Leading in

Sponsor:

Dr Graham Syers

Report Author:

Ian Morris (CNE Prescribing Forum Professional Secretary / Interim Chair)

Date:

3rd November 2020
