

Stockton Health Centre – Registered Patient GP Service

Summary

Stockton Health Centre at Tithebarn provides a GP service for c. 2000 registered patients. The original contract ended on 31 March and the CCG proposed retaining a service in Tithebarn, as part of a branch surgery.

Following consultation, the CCG was not able to secure a provider to provide the service as a full-time, branch surgery. More recently the CCG has undertaken to secure a part-time branch surgery and consulted on that basis in March and April. The Council's response in support of this proposal was finalised and submitted to the CCG.

Due to the general election period, an update on the results of this process and next steps was deferred until this meeting.

Recommendations

The Committee is requested to:

- 1) note the update to be provided at the meeting
- 2) confirm next steps as appropriate.

Detail

1. Stockton Health Centre at Tithebarn provides a GP service for c. 2000 registered patients. The same provider also provides walk-in services for unregistered patients requiring urgent care. The majority of registered patients live in the Hardwick and Salters Lane Ward.
2. As the Committee is aware, the walk-in service for unregistered patients ended on 31 March, and similar services are being provided by the new integrated Urgent Care Service based at North Tees Hospital.

3. The registered patient service was reviewed last year as that element of the existing contract was also due to end on 31 March. At the time it was proposed to retain the service by procuring it as a full-time branch surgery, and consultation took place on this basis.
4. At the meeting on 11 April, Members were informed that following engagement with local Practices, the CCG had not been able to secure a provider to provide the service as a full-time, branch surgery. It therefore extended the existing contract for a further three months to allow for further engagement on the possibility of providing the service as a part-time, branch surgery.
5. Copies of the Engagement Plan and survey materials were shared with the papers.
6. At the meeting, the Committee confirmed that it viewed any changes to the service to be a substantial variation to local services (under the Local Authority (Public Health, Health and Wellbeing Boards and Health Scrutiny) Regulations 2013¹).
7. A consultation response was therefore prepared on that basis, and agreed by Council on 3 May. This is attached at Appendix 1.
8. The CCG's Primary Care Co-commissioning Committee met on 16 May (the same day as the next Committee meeting) and considered the Council's response within its discussions. The PCCC was the CCG body that makes decisions in relation to primary care.
9. At the Committee meeting on 16 May, it was noted that due to the general election period, information on the future of the service, and the identity of a provider if secured, would not now be announced until after the election.
10. It was therefore agreed to consider the issue in more detail at the meeting in June once further information had been received on the tender exercise.

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