

South Tyneside Local Engagement Board – Thursday 14 December 2017

Living Waters, 1.30-3pm

Following opening remarks by the Chair there was an update on the Local Engagement Board (LEB) and presentations on Extended Access, CCG Plans for 2018, and Feedback on the Path to Excellence Consultation.

Local Engagement Board Update

Following a brief update on the LEB in 2017 people discussed their ideas and feelings about the LEB.

- One person felt that the opportunity to ask questions and make comments had been removed from the meeting;
- One person felt outnumbered by NHS employees who at times didn't seem prepared to take comments on board;
- It was suggested that pharmacies could be venues to advertise the meetings;
- It was suggested that hard to reach groups could be targeted;
- It was agreed to target practices' patient forum for the March 2018 meeting.

Update on Extended Access

Key points on Extended Access included:

- Extended Access is currently delivered South Tyneside wide and currently services are delivered from 13 GP practice sites within the borough. This gives patients a wide choice of venue. Patients from all practices can utilise the appointments.
- Appointment times are 7-8am and 6.30-8pm weekdays with access also at weekends.
- All GP and nurse practitioner appointments have been taken up, with practice nurse and health care assistant appointments not utilised as widely.
- All reception teams at GP practices can book patients into extended access appointment slots. Also ii, in the imminent future patients will be able to book appointments within the extended access service through NHS 111.

Q Have you considered the geography of South Tyneside?

A Yes, there is coverage in all of South Tyneside.

Q How do you manage to get staff?

A The enthusiasm from staff has been amazing; we don't have a problem getting staff.

CCG Plans for 2018

Following the presentation there were a number of comments and questions from the audience:

- C There was a programme about encouraging women to breastfeed where they were given vouchers. One woman saved all the vouchers and bought Christmas presents.
- A There is a yearlong trial by Public Health in South Tyneside to pay women to stop smoking. It is controversial but in the first six months those who were paid have lower smoking rates.

- Q What about after the baby is born?
- A The biggest impact is prior to birth. Some mothers will restart but some will continue not to smoke.

- C Partners and husbands need to be involved.
- A Partners can be referred to stop smoking. We also have to recognise the wider context, for example housing and employment.

Feedback on the Path to Excellence Consultation

Following a presentation on the feedback there were comments and questions from the audience:

- Q What will happen in maternity if everything goes to Sunderland?
- A The options are for a midwife led unit for low risk births or for all births to take place at Sunderland. All ante-natal care will remain local.

- C I find it sad as I worked in SCBU; it has got smaller and smaller.
- A People will feel a sense of loss but we can't justify a SCBU if most births are low risk; we need to put specialised staff where the mothers are.

- C Make a professional decision and let the public know; you have to look at the bigger picture.

A member of Diabetes UK aired her concerns about the lack of specialised exercise classes for people suffering from a long term condition such as COPD, Parkinson's, depression, diabetes, obesity etc. Such sessions could help prevent those concerned from relapsing and entering hospital services again, which in turn put extreme pressure on the NHS. The CCG were asked to contact Sunderland Council to arrange a visit to Fullwell Community WELLNESS Programme.

Closing Comments

The chair thanked the audience for attending and their contribution.