
Berkshire West CCG Improvement and Assessment Rating 2018/19

Report being considered by: Health and Wellbeing Board

On: 3 October 2019

Report Author: Cathy Winfield, Chief Officer of Berkshire West CCG

Item for: Discussion

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To report the outcome of the 2018/19 CCG Improvement and Assessment Framework evaluation of Berkshire West CCG's performance.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 The Board should seek assurance from the CCG that an adequate improvement plan is in place.

Will the recommendation require the matter to be referred to the Executive for final determination?	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/>	No: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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3. Introduction/Background

- 3.1 All CCGs are assessed annually against 58 criteria across 4 domains: Better Care, Better Health, Sustainability (which largely relates to finance), and Leadership. CCGs can achieve a rating of Outstanding, Good, Requires Improvement and Inadequate. The rating takes account of the view of external partners through the annual 360 survey and staff feedback. Berkshire West CCG has historically performed well. The former 4 CCGs have achieved a rating of Good in two of the last three years and a rating of Outstanding in the third.
- 3.2 The usual process is that the CCG is advised of its indicative rating ahead of a Regional and then National moderation process. We are then advised of the final rating ahead of publication. This gives an opportunity for us to raise any concerns or queries which can be considered through the moderation process.

4. Assessment Outcome

- 4.1 For 2018/19 the CCG received a rating of Requires Improvement.
- 4.2 We received a letter after both the Regional and National moderation processes had taken place, just two days before national publication. The letter did not contain any explanation for the reduction in our rating from previous years. We asked for a breakdown of our performance on the 58 criteria on 11th July when the ratings were published but this has not been received and has not been published. The value of the assessment process as a mechanism for driving improvement is significantly reduced if the CCG does not have granularity on the areas that require attention.

- 4.3 From our discussion with NHSE/I we understand that the rating was awarded because the CCG failed to achieve its financial control total by £3m on a budget of £653,751m a 0.4% variance.
- 4.4 Partners will know that the CCG has worked as one the first 10 Integrated Care System partnerships in the country. As part of this approach we have sought to make the best use of the NHS pound in Berkshire West. At the end of the last financial year the CCG elected to provide financial support to the Royal Berkshire Foundation Trust to enable it to achieve its own financial control total. This enabled the Trust to secure Provider Sustainability Funds of £9m so the patients in Berkshire West benefited from an additional £9m coming into the local NHS. This arrangement was made with the full knowledge of NHSE/I and the system was commended for its mature approach. The CCG took the view that it was worth missing its own control total for the greater good of the local system and this remains our position.
- 4.5 We are naturally extremely disappointed that the national assurance rating system for CCGs continues to assess organisational performance rather than system working. Based on the technical guidance it appears that the financial position of organisations can override all other areas of performance and that any CCG not achieving its control total is automatically rated Requires Improvement. This can mean that other CCGs who have significant underlying deficits, such as Kernow CCG, can still achieve a rating of Good because they achieve the financial control total set by NHSE. We are disappointed that NHSE was not able to exercise more discretion and consider the underlying reason for the CCG's failure to achieve its control total, which was a deliberate strategy to secure a wider system benefit, rather than a loss of financial control.
- 4.6 However, in awarding the Requires Improvement rating NHSE/I stated "it is recognised that the CCG has made good progress in a number of areas including its contribution to the national ICS agenda".
- 4.7 The CCG's performance in areas, such as cancer targets and A&E waits continues to be very strong and amongst the best in the Region. Some highlights of our 2018/19 performance include:
- (1) Working as a successful Integrated Care System and developing the new Integrated Care Partnership across health and social care
 - (2) Delivering a new scheme to offer more GP appointments in the evenings and at week ends
 - (3) Progressing our Connected Care programme which connects patient records across all parts of the NHS and social care
 - (4) Successfully being selected as just one of four systems in the country to participate in a 20 week Population Health Management programme
 - (5) Improving the management of Atrial Fibrillation by GPs to prevent stroke
 - (6) Improving the screening rates for bowel, breast and cervical cancer

- (7) Expanding care and support planning to people with chronic obstructive airways disease and heart failure
- (8) Investing in community mental health teams
- (9) Working with partners and the local community in preparation for the establishment of Primary Care networks – groups of GP practices working together in a neighbourhood.
- (10) Our education programme for Diabetics won a national award for the largest impact on waist circumference and body weight
- (11) More women with emotional disorders and distress were supported during pregnancy and the first year after birth
- (12) Joint virtual team meetings between GPs, community services and social care teams were established to support complex elderly patients and reduce hospital admissions
- (13) Joint Health and Social Care working in West Berkshire reduced our delayed transfers of care from hospital from 8057 in previous year to 5508 in 2018/19
- (14) New health clinics were commissioned for the homeless to proactively visit day centres, night shelters and substance misuse services

4.8 The CCG Governing Body has also taken account of assessment of the CCG by other external bodies. The recent SEND Review by CQC and Ofsted in West Berkshire was extremely positive. Equally the Children's Commissioner for England wrote to the CCG following her visit to say that the areas of good practice she had identified would be highlighted in her report to the Health Select Committee. Finally the CQC Local System Review, which focussed on Reading but took account of the wider Berkshire West geography, concluded that this was a Good system with the potential to be great.

5. Appendices

There are no appendices to this report.

Background Papers:

None

Health and Wellbeing Priorities 2019/20 Supported - All

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