

HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

17 June 2014

Title:	Addressing Variation in Primary Care – A Report for Barking & Dagenham H&WB Board		
Report of the NHS England London Region			
Open Report	Yes	For Information	
Wards Affected:	All wards	Key Decision: No	
Report Author:	Contact Details:		
Neil Roberts, Head of Primary Care NHS England (London Region, North, Central & East)	Tel: 0207 932 3888 E-mail: neilroberts@nhs.net		
Sponsor: John Atherton, Head of Assurance North Central and East London			
Summary: The paper sets out how the variation in primary care performance is identified and handled. The appendices provide some background on the GP outcome standards and some key data relating to primary care contracts and contractors. It makes reference where the Board might like to consider its due diligence of contracts offered to GP and pharmacies for the services the Local Authority commissions.			
Recommendation(s) The Health and Wellbeing Board is recommended: (i) To note the content of the report (ii) To determine how it might want to consider its “due diligence” on those services the Public Health team choose to commission from GP practices and pharmacies			
Reason(s) Variations in the quality of primary care will result in variations to the standard of service provided to our local population.			

1. Background and Introduction

- 1.1 GPs are independent contractors, not employees of the NHS. Mostly GPs work to national contracts. The process for handling poor individual performance is defined in Performer List Regulations (community pharmacy has no contract but is bound to deliver services to a set of statutory regulations). Once variation is identified, handling mechanisms are put in place that may relate to developmental, contractual or formal performer list action (or a combination of all three).

2. Proposal and Issues

- 2.1 Systematic scrutiny of delivery of GP standards and their improvement is getting underway with the CCG. All practices have access to the web tool where these data are maintained – practices had to validate their data. New primary care strategy and some new London standards are emerging.

3. Consultation

- 3.1 Much of this is national contract matter negotiated at the time between the NHS and the professions centrally.

4. Mandatory Implications

4.1. Joint Strategic Needs Assessment

H&WB supporting improvement programmes

4.2. Health and Wellbeing Strategy

Not applicable to H&WB Board

4.3. Integration

Not applicable to H&WB Board

4.4. Financial Implications

Not applicable to H&WB Board

4.5. Legal Implications

Legal implications relate mainly to the NHS. Ramifications for the LA if it commissions services from a practitioner/contractor not able to work because of Regulatory Body action.

Implications completed by: Neil Roberts, Head of Primary Care NHS England (London Region, North, Central & East)

4.6. Risk Management

Not applicable to H&WB Board

4.7. Patient/Service User Impact

Not applicable to H&WB Board

The purpose of the work is to improve services to patients

5. Non-mandatory Implications

5.1. Contractual Issues

Contracts held and managed by NHS England. Local Authority may have some contracts with some GP practices and community pharmacies

6. Background Papers Used in Preparation of the Report:

None

7. List of Appendices:

— Addressing Variation in Primary Care (Powerpoint Presentation) – May 2014