

Enc 2 Patient/Public Involvement in the commissioning and delivery of NHS services

A local resident has recently raised concerns around patient engagement/involvement in the commissioning process especially as it relates to PPGs and the CCGs' plans for engagement. HWW was copied in to the majority of the correspondence. It has been included on the agenda of the public board meeting (see above).

1. It was raised with NHSE/I that only a handful of PPGs had direct access to the CCG by virtue of being involved in the PAG (patient advisory group) and the remaining PPGs are not included especially as CCGs will no longer be facilitating PPG network meetings. Listed duty to involve patients and public under the Health and Social Care Act 2012. Asking whether CCG is in breach of its statutory duty.

Response from Olivia Butterworth the Head of Public Participation at NHSE/I as she is leading a workstream around the development of PCNs. Correct about CCGs duty to involve but it isn't prescriptive. NHS has a duty to involve around primary care commissioning especially relevant around intro of PCNs. Offer to discuss.

2. The issue was also raised with NAPP (the National Association of Patient Practitioners - the PPG network organisation)
Only those PPGs selected by the CCG for the PAG are in communication with the CCG. All other PPGs do not have direct communication with the CCG. Introduction of PCNs will make this worse with areas of x000 patients having no representation. Is there any case law around this?

Response from NAPP - no case law and no law as it is only guidance which does not mention PPGs. CCGs responsibility is to ensure that all practices have a PPG. Majority of CCGs do not have a PAG but rely on their lay members & HW. There was a further response from NAPP acknowledging frustration but pointing out that Worcestershire CCGs were ok and that there was only guidance and a framework.

3. There is still a conviction that in particular the CCG is in breach of its statutory obligations re patient involvement in the planning of service changes as there no direct contact between the patients of a specific town and the CCG.
4. In addition, there has also been some correspondence and a meeting around STP engagement and patient involvement. Jane Thomas for HACW is attending the BMP to update the meeting on this.