

NHS England - Merseyside

NHS England (previously known as the National Commissioning Board) fulfils an over-arching role nationally and across Merseyside in ensuring that the NHS delivers better outcomes for patients. Although there are 27 Area Teams, NHS England is one single organisation operating to a common model with one Board.

NHS England's main functions across Merseyside include day-to-day relationships with Clinical Commissioning Groups, Direct Commissioning functions, Professional and Clinical Leadership functions and the management of Local Stakeholder relationships.

Direct Commissioning Arrangements

NHS England is responsible for the direct commissioning of Primary Care services across Merseyside, including GPs, Dentists, Pharmaceutical and Optical services as well as commissioning Public Health services on behalf of Public Health England (including screening and immunisation programmes locally). NHS England - Merseyside will also support the commissioning of Specialised Services, Offender Healthcare and health services for members of the Armed Forces in partnership with other NHS England Area Teams.

NHS England - Merseyside will provide the necessary leadership and support to partner Stakeholders to ensure the effective Planning, Securing and Monitoring of Primary Care Services.

Partnership with CCGs

It is recognised that CCGs will have a critical role to play in driving up the quality of Primary Medical care. CCGs will *not* be performance managing primary care contracts as this is the responsibility of NHS England - Merseyside.

CCGs will be required to fulfill the duty set out in the Health and Social Care Act 2012, to support improvements in the quality of Primary Medical care, focusing on local priorities and supporting continuous development.

Local Professional Networks

Strong clinical leadership and engagement is integral to NHS England and the LPN concept will support the achievement of this. LPNs will:

- Support the NHS England in commissioning relevant services
- Provide clinical leadership and facilitate wider clinical engagement
- Establish solid and productive local commissioning relationships with CCGs
- Advise and work in partnership with the health and wellbeing boards
- Feed into other clinical networks and engage with local representative committees, LETBs and others

Central Operations Mersey (COM)

NHS Central Operations (Mersey) continues to provide vital administrative and other core functions to practitioners and their patients across Merseyside.

Future Relationship with Contracted Primary Care Providers

NHS England - Merseyside Area Team will look to support all contracted providers towards ensuring the delivery of high quality, safe and effective care for patients.

As providers of care, GP practices and other contracted providers have the autonomy to make micro-commissioning decisions daily to assure quality care. This enables NHS England to focus on the performance of individual contractors guided by a standardised framework but with scope for local judgement and flexibility. This will also allow NHS England to avoid “clipboard” contract management and concentrate on improvement strategies.

Overall judgement of outcomes will drive the Area Team’s approach to provider management. A key principle of NHS England is that it will not tolerate sub-standard performance however a “support to improve” approach will come before contractual sanctions unless there are serious breaches or concerns.

Contacts – Commissioning Directorate (Director – Anthony Leo)

Tom Knight - Head of Primary Care Commissioning
Tom.Knight@liverpoolpct.nhs.uk
0151 296 7359

Rose Moran - Contracts Manager - Primary Care Medical
Rose.Moran@liverpoolpct.nhs.uk
0151 296 7359