

## Clinical commissioning groups and NHS England

Clinical commissioning groups (CCGs) and NHS England became responsible for commissioning – or purchasing – all health services for children and adults across England from April 1st 2013. This briefing paper explains how they operate and which services they commission.

### Clinical commissioning group (CCG)

All GP practices have to be a member of a clinical commissioning group (CCG). CCG's commission local health services for people living in the area covered by their GP practices. Some local authorities have only one CCG for their whole area. County councils covering a large geographical area are more likely to have more than one CCG.

Contact details of CCG's can be found on Contact a Family website - [www.cafamily.org.uk/parentcarerparticipation](http://www.cafamily.org.uk/parentcarerparticipation) see NHS-page

Each CCG has a governing body, which includes a chair and a lay member with a lead role in championing patient and public involvement. Many also have a GP lead for children services.

### What services will CCG's commission?

The CCGs will be responsible for commissioning:

- urgent care (for example A&E, ambulance services), and the telephone 111 service for non-urgent advice (for anyone in their area)
- hospital care (except some highly specialised services)
- community services (for example speech and language therapy, continence services, wheelchair services and home oxygen services)
- rehabilitation services (except some highly specialised services)
- maternity and newborn services (excluding neonatal intensive care)
- children's healthcare services (mental and physical health)
- services for people with learning disabilities
- mental health services (including psychological therapies)
- NHS continuing healthcare.

CCGs can make arrangements with other CCGs to act jointly in commissioning services or for one CCG to commission services on behalf other CCGs. You can find out more about commissioning and what commissioners do by reading our briefing paper *Working with commissioners and providers to influence health services*.

### NHS commissioning support units

NHS commissioning support units provide non-clinical commissioning support to CCG's. They are currently managed by NHS England but are expected to become independent profit making organisations in three years time. Most CCGs will employ their own commissioning staff as well as buy in some commissioning support from NHS commissioning support units, independent or voluntary sector organisations. Responsibility for commissioning decisions always remains with the CCG even where they have bought in commissioning support.

### How will CCGs work with local authorities?

CCGs have a duty to cooperate with local authorities and their partners to improve the wellbeing of children in the local authority's area and, where necessary, support local authorities in arranging support for children and families. This includes supporting local authorities, where appropriate, in community care assessments and in supporting local education (for example, to help the local authority in providing support for children with special educational needs).

CCGs can enter into partnership arrangements with local authorities (for example, pooled budgets, joint commissioning). CCGs are represented on the local authority health and wellbeing board, which promotes joint working between local authorities, the NHS and public health services. You can read more about health and wellbeing boards in the briefing paper *Health and wellbeing boards' role in promoting integrated services and making the case to target disabled children's services*.

#### For forums wanting to make contact with their clinical commissioning group(s)

- You can download a list of CCG websites by local authority area from [www.cafamily.org.uk/parentcarerparticipation](http://www.cafamily.org.uk/parentcarerparticipation) - see NHS pages.
- Read our Top Tips for parent carer forums on introducing yourself to CCG's
- CCGs are expected to gather patient feedback of services they commission and involve patients and the public in commissioning services. Make enquiries about out how your parent forum can work with the CCG on this.
- You might want to try making contact with the member of the governing body with a lead role in championing patient and public involvement. Another useful contact would be the GP leading on children's services.

## What is NHS England?

NHS England is a new national independent organisation set up to work at arm's length from the Government. See [www.england.nhs.uk](http://www.england.nhs.uk)

NHS England is responsible for commissioning certain services including:

- primary care services, including GPs, pharmaceutical services, dental services, ophthalmic services (for example, NHS sight tests and optical vouchers)
- some services for members of the armed forces and their families
- services for prisoners or people in custodial settings
- some specialised services.

In 2013/14 and 2014/15, NHS England will also commission public health services for children under 5, including the Healthy Child Programme. This offers every child a schedule of health and development reviews, screening tests and immunisations

Public health services for children aged 5 -19, including the school nursing service will be commissioned by local authorities from April 2013.

NHS England also supports improvement in services by promoting quality standards, developing national commissioning guidance and standard contracts. Forums might find it useful to refer to these standards when in discussion with commissioners /providers, if local services are not meeting these standards.

The Secretary of State for health has given NHS England a mandate outlining what it expects it to do. See <http://mandate.dh.gov.uk>

### **This mandate** says

- everyone with long-term conditions should be offered a personalised care plan that reflects their preferences and agreed decisions
- carers looking after friends and family members will routinely have access to information and advice about the support available – including respite care (also known as short breaks)
- partnership working across different services, in supporting children and young people with special educational needs or disabilities, so they have access to the services identified in their agreed care plan
- parents of children who could benefit have the option of a personal budget based on a single assessment across health, social care and education
- demonstrating progress against the Government's priorities of continuing to improve services for both disabled children and adults.

## NHS England area teams

NHS England has 27 area teams, working across 4 regions, the North of England, London, Midlands and East of England, and South of England.

The Area Teams act as its 'local arms' and support the development and assurance of CCGs, and commission local primary services. :

Ten of these area teams also commission prescribed specialised services for people in their region. Specialised services are needed by only a small number of people which means commissioning at a regional or national level is more appropriate.

The manual describes these specialised services and explains which elements are to be directly commissioned by NHS England and which by CCGs. see <http://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2012/12/pss-manual.pdf>

**NHS England: local area teams**

(text in blue if commissioning specialised services)

<p><b>North</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Cheshire, Warrington and Wirral</a></li> <li>• Durham, Darlington and Tees</li> <li>• Greater Manchester</li> <li>• Lancashire</li> <li>• Merseyside</li> <li>• <a href="#">Cumbria, Northumberland, Tyne and Wear</a></li> <li>• North Yorkshire and Humber</li> <li>• <a href="#">South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw</a></li> <li>• West Yorkshire</li> </ul>	<p><b>Midlands and East of England</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Arden, Herefordshire and Worcestershire</li> <li>• <a href="#">Birmingham and the Black Country</a></li> <li>• Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire</li> <li>• <a href="#">East Anglia</a></li> <li>• Essex</li> <li>• Hertfordshire and the South Midlands</li> <li>• <a href="#">Leicestershire and Lincolnshire</a></li> <li>• Shropshire and Staffordshire</li> </ul>
<p><b>London</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• North East London</li> <li>• North West London</li> <li>• South London</li> </ul> <p><a href="#">In London there will be a more integrated structure, with the three local area teams working together to allow commissioning to take place at a London-wide level for some services.</a></p>	<p><b>South</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bath, Gloucestershire, Swindon and Wiltshire</li> <li>• <a href="#">Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire</a></li> <li>• Devon, Cornwall and isles of Scilly</li> <li>• Kent and Medway</li> <li>• <a href="#">Surrey and Sussex</a></li> <li>• Thames Valley</li> <li>• <a href="#">Wessex</a></li> </ul>

*This is one of a series of briefing papers to help parent forums work with health commissioners and providers to improve local health services for disabled children. You can browse all of these in our [NHS Changes](#) section at [www.cafamily.org.uk/parentcarerparticipation](http://www.cafamily.org.uk/parentcarerparticipation)*

*If you would like to discuss this briefing paper in more detail, please contact Sheila Davies at Contact a Family on 020 7608 8773 or email [Sheila.Davies@cafamily.org.uk](mailto:Sheila.Davies@cafamily.org.uk)*