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To:

Date: 24<sup>th</sup> July 2013

**Subject: The role of the Area Team with regards to primary care commissioning**

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**1 Purpose of the Note**

- 1.1 To brief members on the role of the Area Team with regards to Primary Care Commissioning in Coventry

**2 Recommendations**

For the Board to note the contents of this briefing

**3 Information/Background**

- 3.1 From 1<sup>st</sup> April 2013, the Area Teams of NHS England have taken over the responsibility for the commissioning and contract management of all Primary Care Contracts previously managed by the Primary Care Trusts (PCTs). The Arden, Herefordshire and Worcestershire Area Team are therefore responsible for Coventry General Practices.

- 3.2 All Primary Care contracts are managed against a nationally stipulated framework to ensure a standardised approach across the country and are underpinned by the Regulations.

Access practices provide is monitored as part of the regular contract monitoring process as in some cases, opening hours and number of appointments are stipulated in practices' contracts. There is expectation that all practices provide sufficient access for the needs of their patient population.

A number of General Practitioners are due to retire in 2013 and the area Team is working closely with all affected practices to ensure business continuity and clinical capacity is maintained and patient care is not affected by any changes.

Further, a number of practices across Arden have expressed an interest in formally merging - a robust Regulatory process if followed and the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee are apprised of any such proposals.

- 3.3 The responsibility for the commissioning of all Urgent and Emergency Care as well as Out of Hours Medical Care has moved to the Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2013, with the exception of the Walk in Centre, which has remained with NHS England area team as it holds a registered list.

The Area Teams retained the responsibility for the commissioning of some further key elements that support the Urgent care system, such as the Extended Opening Hours Directed Enhanced Service and Influenza Vaccination programme amongst many.

The contract for the Walk in Centre contains robust key performance indicators and performance against them is monitored quarterly. Equally, the WiC submit revised and extended capacity plans for periods of particular pressure, such as Bank Holidays and special events (such as the recent Godiva festival) to ensure sufficient capacity to cope with increased demand.

- 3.4 NHS England Area Teams have shared responsibility with CCGs for continuous quality improvement; the Area Teams also have an important role in performance management. We are working closely with the CCGs and constituent practices to ensure that the system capacity is well prepared for periods of particular pressure. The Area Team and the Operations Directorate in particular are heavily involved in supporting the CCGs in development of their individual and system-wide plans. All CCGs have a monthly Urgent Care Board, which is attended by representatives of the Area Team. Further, all CCGs have recently revised their escalation plans to ensure system preparedness and are at present reviewing and revising the Surge and Winter plans.

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