

Board Members are asked to note the following recent policy and other items which have a bearing on the work of Healthwatch Rutland.

1. Settings of Care Policy

The three clinical commissioning groups covering Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland – East Leicestershire and Rutland, West Leicestershire and Leicester City CCGs – have asked patients, carers, families and the groups that represent them to share their thoughts and views on potential changes to the 'Settings of Care' policy. Those in receipt of Continuing Health Care have been specifically asked their views. The results of the survey are currently being collated and reviewed and will be taken into consideration in the drafting of an updated policy. If significant changes are recommended the CCGs will run a public consultation later in the year.

2. Over the Counter Medicines

From 31 October 2016 the majority of patients in East Leicestershire and Rutland are no longer be prescribed medicines by their GP if they are available over the counter at pharmacies and supermarkets. These medicines will include pain killers, cough medicines, hay fever tablets and cold sore treatments. Some patients will be exempt from this change if they have particular conditions, for example those who need paracetamol to manage chronic pain, and these people are being advised to discuss this with their GP.

3. Every Voice Matters

Healthwatch England has published its annual report for 2015-16 available at www.healthwatch.co.uk

4. Managing Conflicts of Interest

NHS England has issued revised statutory guidance for CCGs

5. Devolution – deal for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough

During the summer, formal consultation took place on devolution proposals for Peterborough and Cambridgeshire. Updates on www.peterborough.gov.uk/council/strategies-policies-and-plans

6. Care Quality Commission – identifying and managing clinical risks in new born babies and providing care for infants in the community who need respiratory support**7. End of life care**

The Government has issued a response to an independent review of end of life care and made 6 commitments to the public to end variation in end of life care across the health system by 2020. www.gov.uk/government/publications/choice-in-end-of-life-care-government-response

8. Commissioning Services for People with Hearing Loss

A new framework for clinical commissioning groups has been published by NHS England

9. Widening Digital Participation programme

A new study has revealed that an NHS initiative to get vulnerable people online has dramatically improved their health and well-being and reduced demand for front line services

10. Personal Budgets in Social Care

The second report of the Public Accounts committee was published in June 2016

11. Better Mental Health for All

This report from the Mental Health Foundation focusses on a public health approach to mental health improvement

12. Care Quality Commission – Building Bridges, Breaking Barriers

This CQC report describes how care is integrated across health and social care and the impact on older people who use services, and their families and carers.

13. Securing Meaningful choice for patients

This CCG planning and improvement guide was issued by NHS England Improvement in August 2016

14. Engaging local people – a guide for local areas developing sustainability and transformation plans

This guidance published in September 2016 summarises the current legal and other guidance on engaging patients and the role of Healthwatch

15 NICE “Just one person”

This NICE guidance describes the named coordinator role from the perspective of the older person

16.Procedures for clinical commissioning groups to apply for constitution change, merger or dissolution

NHS England has published new guidance for CCGs thinking of changing their constitution

FOR INFORMATION