

CCG Response to Questions from Mr Snaith

1. We have a deficiency in East Wycombe of doctors and surgeries. Over 3 doctors short and that's with over 1500 new homes already and another 1200 homes planned in next 5 years. Can we have the CCG plans to deliver adequate GP services for residents ?

- A In January this year, NHS England published its Long Term Plan and then a further document "Investment and Evolution: A five year framework for GP contract reform to implement The NHS Long Term Plan". These documents set out a new way of working for primary care including the establishment of Primary Care Networks (PCNs).

Primary care is transforming so that the focus is no longer just on GP led services and surgery buildings. Other healthcare professionals will play a key role in delivering primary medical services. For example, paramedics and advanced nurse practitioners might provide home visiting services and cover the bulk of minor illness presenting to the GP practice. In addition, with the introduction of a Community Pharmacy Consultation Service, community pharmacy is moving towards playing a greater role in providing first contact advice and support to patients with minor ailments.

A programme of digital transformation is also underway which enables patients to manage their health at home by the use of on-line consultations, access to medical records and an electronic prescriptions service.

For East Wycombe, and indeed the whole of the county and England, this means that there is less emphasis on physical premises as services will be built around the individual needs of patients, providing services in a timely way, at a range of facilities and by the most appropriate healthcare profession.

Whilst the CCG will continue to have overall responsibility for the development of primary medical services in Buckinghamshire it will be working across the health and social care system with its partners in NHS Trusts and Local Government. Primary Care Networks (PCNs) will be responsible for the delivery of the transformation of services in their areas. In Wycombe, there are 2 PCNs; Cygnet and Dashwood.

PCNs will need to consider their combined estate and agree with the CCG how this needs to change in order that facilities are appropriate for the delivery of services in Wycombe.

2. Lynton House was upgraded as an interim measure. But it continues to function on reduced opening hours with referrals up to Cressex practice at every opportunity . Why do we still have a deficiency of GPs in East Wycombe?

- A The catchment of all practices in Wycombe cover the East of the town and Kingswood Surgery's catchment particularly focusses on the area. As a branch site, Lynton House operates all day (0800 to 1800) Monday and Friday and mornings only (0800 to 1300) on Tuesday and Thursday. The CCG believes this is adequate for a branch site and it is appropriate for referrals to be made to the main site at Hanover House where further investigation or specialist advice is needed. Lynton House does have the space to accommodate additional patient numbers should the practice list expand in that area of the town.

Wycombe is not alone in facing a shortage of GPs, this is a national problem and one of the driving factors for primary care transformation as described in the answer to Q1. In addition,

Buckinghamshire CCG is working with the CCGs in Oxfordshire and West Berkshire on a number of initiatives designed to encourage GP recruitment and retention.

3. There is a new plan for practices to work together to manage workloads. Why has Cressex practice linked with practices to west of Wycombe when Lynton House is in east of Wycombe?

A PCNs are not just about managing workloads. Ultimately, as described in the answer to Q1, PCNs will be responsible for delivering the transformation of primary care in their area.

Membership of a PCN was a decision for the practices that make up its membership and as previously stated all practices based in Wycombe have catchments that include East Wycombe. The membership of Dashwood PCN comprises Cressex Health Centre (branch at Lynton House), Riverside Surgery, Wye Valley Surgery, Chiltern House Medical Centre and Carrington House. This PCN felt that the inclusion of Stokenchurch Medical Centre would be appropriate as its patients look to Wycombe and share service providers with the other practices in the PCN.

4. S Kearey of CCG states "GP drive doctors surgeries". Why is CCG hiding behind GPs decide on surgeries as a reason not to meet increased demand

A Simon Kearey was referring to the fact that GPs are independent contractors and as such have to make business decisions which create sustainable practices which provide high quality, safe services for their patients. As contractors they are required to have suitable premises from which to deliver services. It is for the CCG to ensure that there are adequate primary medical services which are accessible to patients. It does this by the management of GP contracts and working collaboratively with GPs and going forward PCNs. It seeks to retain and encourage the development of existing practices.

In line with national and local strategy and with due regard to affordability and patient engagement, the CCG will support a practice who wishes to move to a different location.

5. S Kearey of CCG also states "Another factor would be a massive house building programme - the likes of what we see in Aylesbury but not quite to the same extent in Wycombe". Perhaps CCG can therefore justify why Beaconsfield is getting a doctors coming together in a new practice with home building well below that of High Wycombe

A Population expansion caused by housing development is just one factor which would justify relocation or new build GP premises. The GPs in Beaconsfield (Simpson Centre and Millbarn Medical Centre) worked together in 2016 to apply for capital funding from NHS England to build new joint facilities. Their bid was successful and they are working with their chosen developer to submit a full business case to NHS England to secure funding for this scheme.

6. CCG saying they rely on doctors to relocate is not an acceptable solution to a growing problem. Why will the CCG not grasp the problem and secure land ready for a new practice/health centre. The Homebase site is ideal. There is also another community building available (The Junction Pub). Also land on the new Gomm Valley estate. These pieces of land and buildings won't be around forever.

A The CCG is unable to own property or hold a lease and does not hold capital reserves to fund such an acquisition. It commissions primary medical services via GP contracts within which is a requirement for contractors to have suitable premises but the CCG could not make stipulation about the location of premises (unless existing premises are available) as any potential

contractor will need to decide on affordability and suitability as well as their willingness to invest.

Although the CCG could tender for a new contract it is of the opinion that there are currently adequate primary medical services in Wycombe, especially in light of the plans for the transformation of primary care as described, which are already underway.

7. Its been 12 years since doctor surgery was allowed for on the Retail Park. CCCR refused the building that was offered. BCC Cllr Julia Wassell is on record at stating it could be up to another 10 years before we see a new doctors or Health Centre in the east end of High Wycombe . Excuses and procrastination reigns from all areas. What is it going to take to get a positive commitment and surgery /Health Centre for the people of east end of High Wycombe

A Previous answers have provided detail of the context and contractual framework within which the CCG is working. This explains that future provision of primary medical services is not all about doctors or buildings but using technology and a range of healthcare professionals in a variety of settings to deliver services in a different way. Where a building is needed, the use of existing estate will be maximised before investment is considered in alternative premises.

Having stated that, due to public concern that there are insufficient primary care facilities available to residents in the East Wycombe area, the CCG has submitted a bid to Wycombe District Council to draw down some Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding to allow for a comprehensive review and feasibility study to be undertaken of the primary care estate in this area. This review will take into account existing facilities, planned housing growth and the development of new technologies such as online consulting, that will be factors to consider when looking at the need for more premises.

If this review does find that new facilities are required then a proposal would need to come from an individual practice or PCN and be subject to the availability of capital, support from practices, engagement with the public and a robust business case.

8. How can CCCG and BCC work together to secure land for a Health Centre .

A Previous answers have explained that the CCG is unable to own or lease property or land. It also currently has no plans to offer another contract for primary medical services in Wycombe.

The CCG is working with Bucks County Council on programmes such as the One Public Estate Initiative, the purpose being wherever possible to invest in existing publically owned estate. The CCG's support for the relocation of the Wye Valley Surgery to the Wycombe hospital site is an illustration of where funding previously going to a 3rd party landlord, is now going back into the NHS.

Overarching Statement from CCG

The CCG's aim is to strengthen and build primary care services that result in all patients being able to access the best possible care in a timely way. Primary care isn't just about general practice, but about the wider team that support the delivery of care to patients, including community nurses, social prescribers, paramedics and pharmacists. Building an integrated service model is the first step in developing not just a service strategy but an estate strategy fit for the future and the CCG is already working on this, with both Buckinghamshire Healthcare Trust and the County Council. The integration of Primary and Community care is also a cornerstone of the NHS Long Term Plan.