

Primary care commissioning committee (Chair's action)

DATE: 31st March 2020

ENCLOSURE: xxx

AGENDA ITEM: xxx

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| Title | Riverside and Bulbanks Merger |
| This paper is for decision . | |
| Recommended action for the primary care commissioning committee | <p>Through Chair's action on an urgent unplanned basis, the Primary Care Commissioning Committee is asked to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Agree that Dr Bhadra joins Dr Nandra's contract as a prelude to the merger, to stabilise matters in the interim. 2. Agree that there is a 3 month extension to the merger condition that a lease is in place between Riverside Surgery and NHS Property Services. |
| Reason for sharing paper in private and when the detail contained in this paper will be published | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An update on the decisions taken within this paper will be made public at the next South East London Primary Care Commissioning Committee to be held on 16th April. |
| Potential areas for conflicts of interest | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None- this paper is being taken as Chair's action. |
| Executive summary | <p>At the December meeting of the Primary Care Commissioning Committee it was agreed that Riverside Surgery and Bulbanks Surgery would merge with effect from 1st April 2020, subject to the following conditions being fulfilled:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An engagement plan setting out how both practices will engage with their patients and stakeholders including informing patients there will be planned engagement events in December 2019 and January 2020. • Confirmation from Healthwatch, Bexley Overview and Scrutiny |

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| | <p>Committee and Bexley LMC that the merger is supported.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Writing to patients of both practices to communicate the intention to merge the two practices which will be cost neutral for the CCG as it is in PCSE scope providing only 2-sided letter is issued to patients. • The lease for Erith Health Centre being completed and signed prior to the merger. • Dr Hardip Singh Nandra remaining as a signatory to the Bulbanks PMS agreement until the merger takes place on 1st April 2020. • The inclusion of a contractualised Improvement Plan which addresses all the improvement that the practices have committed to as part of their Business Case, particularly in the areas of FFT and telephone experience (Riverside) and Bowel Screening uptake (both). Should any further improvement areas be identified following the CQCs recent inspections of both contractors, these will be added to the Improvement Plan. <p>Commissioners met with Riverside Surgery on 21st January 2020 in relation to progressing the above conditions and adequately preparing for the merger. Template documents were shared with the practice for them to populate and return which were regularly requested/ followed-up by commissioners.</p> <p>Since that time the following progress has been made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two engagement events were held with patients on 24th February (12 people attended) and on 27th February (nobody attended). There were no major objections raised. Most queries relating to how they sign up to online access, telephone system, booking appointments at the different sites, will they see the same GPs, whether Dr Nandra be retiring. The practice returned their engagement plan to commissioners on 31st March. • Healthwatch have confirmed their support to the merger– received 9th March 2020 • Riverside Surgery received confirmation of support from Bexley Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 31st March. • LMC support for the merger has been sought by Riverside Surgery (3rd March) and has been received by the CCG. • Letters were sent to patients notifying them of the merger on 10th February 2020. • Dr HS Nandra remains a signatory to the Bulbanks PMS contract • A contractualised improvement plan has been populated by the practice and was submitted to commissioners on 31st March. There will be quarterly performance monitoring meetings with the merged |
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| | <p style="text-align: center;">practice to ensure that the necessary improvements are delivered.</p> <p>While work has been undertaken between both NHS Property Services and Riverside Surgery in relation to resolving the historical debt position and ensuring a lease is in place, this work has not yet concluded. There has been some success in clearing outstanding debt in relation to rent, rates and other reimbursable costs but there is still work to be done in reaching a settlement position on outstanding service charges. NHS Property Services wrote to Riverside Surgery on 13th March setting out the financial position in relation to credits owed (due to wrongly allocating space to the surgery), remaining debt by year and all the backing information that NHS PS has available. NHS PS have confirmed that a 3 months delay is sufficient to enable this merger condition to be fulfilled.</p> <p>The clinical system merger has already been delayed until mid-May due to the national Covid crisis, but would be realigned to coincide with formal merger.</p> <p>Riverside Surgery has expressed concern with the merger being delayed due to the support and extra resilience that they are offering to Dr Nandra, who is effectively operating as a single hander. A number of Bulbanks staff have already Tuped over to Riverside Surgery and it has therefore been proposed that adding Dr Bhadra to the Bulbanks contract in the interim, will provide extra resilience during this pressured time. A 3 month extension to the merger will enable the remaining condition for Riverside Surgery to sign a lease with NHS PS to be resolved.</p> | |
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| What are the organisational implications | Key risks | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> That the single hander GP, Dr Nandra leaves Bulbanks Surgery without sufficient succession planning in place. This risks the practice needing to be dispersed. |
| | Equality | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To ensure there is no loss of general practice services to the population of Erith/ Lower Belvedere |
| | Financial | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> None to commissioners |
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| Clinical lead: | n/a | |
| Executive sponsor: | Nisha Wheeler, Director of Primary Care, ICT & IG, Bexley CCG | |