

Stakeholder Update

You may remember we wrote to you earlier this year to tell you about changes to health services in Blackburn with Darwen as a result of NHS reforms.

Over the last six months a great deal of progress has been made in developing new structures and organisations and we are writing again to update you. You can also view our two-minute film at www.bwdgpnet.org.uk, which has been made by local people for local people to explain some of the changes.



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Joint Director of
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Dr Chris Clayton
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**Councillor
Mohammed
Khan**
Executive member
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Clinical Commissioning Group prepares to take charge

Responsibility for planning and buying local health services – currently delivered through Blackburn with Darwen Care Trust Plus – will transfer to the new, GP-led Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) from April next year.

It will buy health services including planned hospital care, rehabilitative care, urgent and emergency care, most community health services and mental health and learning disability services. GP and GP out of hours services will be commissioned by the new NHS Commissioning Board. This is a national organisation with local offices, including one in Lancashire.

The CCG has agreed a staffing structure made up of 16 posts, headed by

Darwen GP Dr Chris Clayton, who has been named Clinical Chief Officer Designate. Staff are currently being recruited and the organisation, which expects to be authorised by the NHS Commissioning Board in November, will run in full shadow form from October 1.

As a small organisation, the CCG will buy in support from the newly established NHS Lancashire Commissioning Support Unit, with a locality team

of approximately 15 staff based with the CCG in Blackburn with Darwen and a larger 'hub' based at Jubilee House in Leyland.

The CCG Board will start holding its meetings in public from October. The Board includes two lay members – former social worker Joe Slater, who is the designate Chair, and Paul Hinnigan, who will lead on governance.

Although the Care Trust Plus's social care commissioning function and staff will transfer back to the Council, the CCG and Council are exploring new options for joint working, including integrating some public health, adults and children's social care, and NHS commissioning functions. More detailed proposals are expected later this year.

Public Health transfers to the Council

From April 2013, responsibility for commissioning public health prevention services transfers from the Care Trust Plus to Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council as part of the wider NHS reforms.

The partnership between the local NHS and Council is already well established and this move is seen as a once in a generation opportunity to tackle some of the key issues that affect health in the borough.

The role of public health is to improve the health of the local population and reduce health inequalities. The public health team has already moved to Blackburn

Town Hall and will work with all Council departments to influence factors that impact on health such as housing, environment and employment.

The Council will work closely with GPs, who are on the frontline and have a unique understanding of the health challenges facing this borough, to promote good health and prevent ill health.

The following service categories will become the Council's responsibility from April 2013:

- tobacco control and stop smoking
- alcohol and drug misuse
- public health services for children and young people aged 5-19
- child measurement programme
- obesity services
- locally-led nutrition initiatives
- increasing levels of physical activity
- NHS Health Check assessments
- public mental health services
- dental public health services
- accidental injury prevention
- interventions to reduce and prevent birth defects
- cancer and long-term conditions campaigns
- workplace health
- immunisation and screening programmes.
- comprehensive sexual health services
- reducing excess deaths as a result of seasonal mortality
- health protection incidents, outbreaks and emergencies
- public health aspects of community safety, violence prevention and response
- public health aspects of local initiatives to tackle social exclusion
- reducing public health impacts of environmental risks.

Health and Wellbeing Board develops strategy

Blackburn with Darwen Health and Wellbeing Board is gearing up to consult the public on its first draft strategy this autumn.

The strategy sets out how public, private, community and voluntary sectors will work together over the next three years to improve local health and wellbeing. Planning has been done around the key life stages - childhood, adults at home, work and in leisure and older people – as this is proven to be the most effective way to tackle health inequalities.

Blackburn with Darwen was one of the first places in the country to establish a Health and Wellbeing Board in February 2011 in response to government reforms, which demanded that leaders from the health and care system work more closely together.

From April 2013, the Blackburn with Darwen Health

and Wellbeing Board will be a statutory partnership board of Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council.

Until then it will be a 'shadow' board overseeing transitional arrangements for health and social care and providing local direction and leadership for health and wellbeing.

The Board is made up of Councillors, Clinical Commissioning Group members, Council chief officers, Healthwatch representatives and voluntary and community sector representatives and is chaired by the Leader of the Council, Cllr Kate Hollern. It meets bi-monthly in public, with the opportunity for residents to bring questions and petitions to meetings.

The Health and Wellbeing Board has identified the following five priority areas:

- Give every child the best start in life: Taking a holistic approach to supporting families, ensuring that they receive the right support at the right time, helping them to make positive changes in their lives whilst building local community support and assets
- Promote good employment for all: Improving wellbeing in the workplace and supporting those out of work into employment.
- Make leisure healthy: Maximizing the opportunities for all people to engage in health promoting activities, minimizing harm and promoting recovery from the use of alcohol, tobacco and drugs.
- Improve the quality of homes: Increasing the opportunity for people to live in decent housing and decent neighborhoods that support their health and wellbeing.
- Support independence and social inclusion in old age: Ensuring that older people in Blackburn with Darwen are supported to be independent, are involved and helped to contribute to their communities, whilst ensuring that those who need support have their needs met with dignity and respect.

Healthwatch

From April 2013, Healthwatch Blackburn with Darwen will take over from Local Involvement Networks (LINKs) as the local consumer champion for the NHS.

LINKs raise concerns or issues and can review and make recommendations to commissioners about local services.

Healthwatch will be required to:

- involve local people in health and social care
- help local people to monitor provision and standards of local care
- gather views on needs and experiences
- make views known to providers and commissioners
- report to Healthwatch England and the Care Quality Commission
- provide advice and information about local health and social care services

Healthwatch England will be established in October 2013 as a committee of the Care Quality Commission (CQC) and will provide leadership and standards for Local Healthwatch.

The Council has a duty to commission and fund Local Healthwatch and establish an independent corporate body to ensure that Healthwatch conveys the voice of patients and the public directly to the decision-making table and champion the needs and wishes of patients and members of the public.

Blackburn with Darwen was successful in achieving pathfinder status and has a local Healthwatch transition project

team with members made up of the LINK, the LINK Host, Council, Care Trust, third Sector Network and co-opted members from the CQC and from the North West Transition Alliance.

The project led a process of public involvement and engagement to ensure that Healthwatch Blackburn with Darwen is fit for purpose. Recruitment to Healthwatch will be advertised in September, with a view to appointing a shadow Healthwatch by October.

A shadow Healthwatch board is expected to be established by October and will officially launch next April.

We hope you have found this update useful

Over the coming months and years, there will be more opportunities than ever before for local people to have their say about Blackburn with Darwen health services and these are outlined below:

- The CCG will hold events to seek views about local health services and future plans. More details are available at www.bwdgpnet.org.uk
- There will be online surveys and these will be promoted through Shuttle and local media.
- People can ask to join the patient reference group run by their own GP practice.
- There is a half hour session for public questions and petitions at the start of every Health and Wellbeing Board meeting. These take place every other month. For meeting dates and papers and details of how to submit a question or petition, visit www.blackburn.gov.uk/hwb
- Public and patients can also become a member of Healthwatch and help to set up this new organisation. To find out more visit www.Healthwatchblackburnwithdarwen.org.uk

We will write again later in the year to update you on further developments.