

Notes from the Welsh Cross Border Network meeting 12th September 2016

Introduction

1. The NHS Cross Border Network supports closer working between the NHS in England and the NHS in Wales for the benefit of patients along the border.
2. The Cross Border Network met in Birmingham on 9 May 2016.
3. This report presents a summary of the discussions which took place at the May meeting.

Cross border project update

Chair gave an update on the progress of the test phase:

- In order to assure a full six months evaluation, the test phase will run from August 2016 to January 2017.
- There have been approximately 190 referrals to the referral assessment service (RAS) during August 2016, which has been the first complete month for data collection.
- A project issues log has been established to capture any issues as they arise, and their resolution. This is reviewed by the IT&F on a monthly basis.
- Welsh Government representative has spoken with all GP practices in the test phase as part of the monthly evaluation process. The response has been very positive and complimentary of the RAS.
- NHS England project team are collating the evaluation data and will publish an evaluation report in February 2017, once the test phase is completed.
- Final evaluation report will be sent to the Welsh minister for final sign-off before the full implementation phase commences.

Arrangements for 2017/18

Following the test phase at the end of January 2017, a plan would be required to include the practices opting to join the RAS arrangements to enter full implementation phase from 1 April 2017.

Discussions between Welsh Government (WG) and NHS England project team and local health board (LHB) colleagues are now required in preparation for 2017/18. A key consideration in this planning process will be scheduling the training required by NHS Wales Informatics Service (NWIS) for practices wishing to join the process. The technical processes, in particular the postcode flagging, can be done within a few hours.

The implementation plan will be shared with the CBN at the next meeting.

Finance

Clarification is still being sought and WG will meet with Department of Health (DH) on 21 September to progress the discussions about finances for this year and for 2017/18.

It was mentioned that the new framework for independent providers and shared services was due to be finalised and published in April 2017 for LHBs and should be taken into consideration in these discussions.

Information technology systems between England and Wales

It had been agreed at the previous CBN in May to capture all known technology projects along the border. A technology template had been circulated to the CBN but no data has been added by members.

Policy difference log

The Cross Border Network Group discussed the policy differences log, explaining that the national and government level information had been completed and all that was outstanding was the local information. The group were asked for a steer on the document and to consider what it was trying to achieve, given that previous discussions had included developing a patient facing document.

Next meeting date will be arranged for February 2017