



Commissioning Alliance

Brighton and Hove CCG

Crawley CCG

East Surrey CCG

High Weald Lewes Havens CCG

Horsham and Mid Sussex CCG

Focus on finance

This briefing aims to keep our key stakeholders updated on the financial situation of CCGs within the Central Sussex and East Surrey Commissioning Alliance. This is part of our commitment to communicate about our finances in a clear, open and transparent way.

July 2018

Reaffirming our commitment to being open, honest and transparent with our patients and public

Last month the CCGs of the Central Sussex and East Surrey Commissioning Alliance set out the requirement to collectively save £50m by the end of this financial year. This represents 3.5% of the total allocation of money that the five CCGs receive to commission services, which is £1.4bn.

If this is achieved, the CCGs will receive £65m from NHS England's "Commissioner Sustainability Fund", which will put all the organisations into a financial balanced position going into the next financial year.

It is clear that saving £50m will be a significant challenge and will involve difficult decisions to be made about some services that are not considered cost effective. However, all the CCGs are committed to making sure we meet our duty to commission services in a sustainable and affordable way and that we do not carry on spending more money than is available.

We have also made the commitment to being as open, honest and transparent as possible with our patients, public and stakeholders around our financial situation and the decisions that will be made to meet our financial requirements.

As such, we are publishing a public document: *'Our Public Pledges...to being open, honest and transparent around difficult decisions'*. This document sets out three pledges that we are making to our public and defines the practical actions we will be taking to try to bring these pledges to life. These pledges are:

- We will involve patients, the public, carers and partners in the decisions that we make whenever possible and where appropriate.
- We will communicate about our financial situation and decisions in a clear, open and honest way.
- We will have an open door policy to any patients, public, carers and partners who want to talk to us about the decisions we make.

As part of our pledges, we will be going into our community to talk to local people about the challenges we face and what matters most to them around local health and care. This will be done through a sustained programme of public engagement throughout the rest of the year across the Alliance CCG areas, known as the Big Health and Care Conversation.

We are also asking the public to show their commitment to the NHS by making pledges of their own. We will be asking people to tell us what actions they will be taking to #HelpMyNHS, which may involve them using services appropriately, turning up to appointments, or buying medication instead of having them prescribed.

It is clear that to meet our financial challenge, we will need the help and co-operation of the public and we will be asking them to play their part to #HelpMyNHS.

Where will the savings come from?

CCGs have a number of statutory and mandatory NHS services that they have to pay for. These include hospital, community and mental health services.

In addition to the statutory and mandatory NHS services, the CCG pays for other services that have been commissioned over the years due to a particular need or as a way to help prevent people's health from deteriorating. The money spent on these services is known as "discretionary" spend as the CCG has the freedom, or discretion, to decide how the money is spent. These services are regularly reviewed to ensure they are both cost-effective and continue to give clinical health benefits to patients.

The majority of savings made last year by the CCGs came from the ongoing savings programme known as the Quality, Innovation, Productivity and Prevention (QIPP) programme. This is a national programme that has been running for many years and expects CCGs to reduce the amount of waste in the NHS through efficiency, contractual and service improvement schemes.

Examples of savings made through the QIPP programme have been: reducing medicines waste through reviewing repeat prescription processes; ensuring the most cost effective drugs are prescribed; expanding successful pilot schemes and ending those that have not been effective; and using IT more effectively. The amount of money across the Alliance expected to be achieved from the QIPP programme is almost £19m.

When will the CCGs start making these savings?

A review of all budgets across the Alliance CCGs has taken place and potential savings have been identified. This has involved clinicians reviewing the current health and care services commissioned by the CCGs that have limited or no clinical benefits to patients to identify any areas where money is not being spent as effectively as it should be.

This process has been overseen by an Alliance Turnaround Board, which is chaired by the Accountable Officer and includes the five CCG Clinical Chairs.

The Alliance submitted a Financial Recovery Plan to NHS England at the end of June, which set out the context, overall approach to savings, details of saving plans, and the risks and mitigations in 2018/19. There is now a requirement to provide further information to NHS England on the savings plan and it will be updated for further submission by 20 July.

The Governing Bodies of each of the five CCGs will consider the savings plan by the end of July and, once agreed, we will then be in a position to start taking some of the actions to make the savings.

Does the recent Government announcement of long-term investment in the NHS change the Alliance savings target?

The CCGs of the Alliance welcome the proposed new long-term funding agreement with the NHS and we await the details of what this will mean for our local populations. However, as the funding agreement is not due to start until 2019-20, any national proposals for extra funding does not change our financial obligations for the current financial year. We, therefore, remain committed to collectively saving £50m across the Alliance by next April.

