

- **Excerpt below from ratified minutes**

NPBDG/2023/67

Agenda Item 10 Northumberland Health Subcontracting decision

A Resilience Bid was submitted and approved [REDACTED] to support the practice for a period of no less than 3 months to ensure sustainability and viability of the service for patients. The ICB is working alongside the LMC to support the practitioners as well as gain a fuller understanding of the issues. It has subsequently come to light that the issues previously identified are more comprehensive than initially indicated and as a result the ICB will now implement a more formal approach to the process for the practice. It is proposed that an Open Book Exercise is enacted, which relates specifically to the contract of Northumberland Health, to provide the accurate status of the contract.

GS asked what the obligation was to engage with patients around this decision. Discussions have continued throughout this work with Northumberland Health with the patient participation groups (PPGs); both Felton and Northumberland Health PPG. It had been agreed during discussions with Felton PPG that Northumberland Place would do some engagement and communications and involve Northumberland Health patients when a resolution was established on a direction of travel for the practice. [REDACTED]

The transition to NPC is scheduled to take place at the end of July 2023.

There will be a need to communicate with this group of patients, but the timeline at this stage was unknown as the patients were not currently aware of the planned subcontracting activity. GS highlighted that the tone of the communication would be important, for example explaining the change was done in the patients' best interests and had to be completed quickly with the patients' care in mind.

Northumberland Place Primary Care would need to look carefully at how communications are managed. Felton PPG had suggested a mail-shot letter to patients from NPC as the new contract holders, with the primary care team assisting to guide the content, in a timely manner. This suggestion was positively received by those PBDG members present.

ACTION NPBDG/2023/67/01: Northumberland Primary Care Team to liaise with NPC regarding communications with patients of Northumberland Health.

The next stage will be for the Primary Care Team to liaise with NPC to determine whether the new build will happen, as well as the Widdrington surgery building requiring a review on any refurbishments.

[REDACTED]

It was agreed that a discussion regarding primary care commissioned services, the subcontracting of enhanced services and the mechanism for doing so, would need to be addressed at an appropriate time with NPC with regard to their sub-contracting of Northumberland Health.

ACTION NPBDG/2023/67/03: Primary Care Team to include a discussion regarding primary care commissioned services, the subcontracting of enhanced services and the mechanism for doing so, at an appropriate time with NPC with regard to Northumberland Health.

DECISION:

- The PBDG accepted the paper and the recommendation of a subcontracting process with NPC for clinical service delivery to the registered population of Northumberland Health.
- The Director of Place approved the processes undertaken to manage the contractual requirement for service delivery.