

L&SC Integrated Care Board Primary Care Contracts Sub-Committee

Date of meeting*	11 September 2025
Title of paper*	Sub-committee Escalation and Assurance Report
Presented by*	Peter Tinson, Director of Primary and Community Commissioning
Author	Sarah Danson, Senior Delivery Assurance Manager David Armstrong, Senior Delivery Assurance Manager
Agenda Item	7
Confidential	No

Purpose of the paper		
The paper is the escalation and assurance report from the formal sub-committee groups.		
Executive Summary		
<p>The paper highlights key matters, issues, and risks discussed at the group meetings detailed below to advise, assure and alert the Primary Care Contracts Sub-committee.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primary Medical Services Group: Peter Tinson (Director of Primary and Community Commissioning) • Primary Dental Services Group: Amy Lepiorz (Associate Director Primary Care) • Pharmaceutical Services Group: Amy Lepiorz (Associate Director Primary Care) • Primary Optometric Services Group: Dawn Haworth (Head of Delivery) • Primary Care Capital Group: Paul Juson (Head of Delivery Assurance) <p>It also highlights any issues or items referred or escalated to Committees or the Board.</p> <p>Reports approved by the chair each group are presented to sub-committee to provide assurance that the groups have met in accordance with their terms of reference and to advise the sub-committee of the business transacted.</p>		
Recommendations		
<p>The Primary Care Contracts Sub-committee is requested to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Receive and note the Alert, Assure, Advise (AAA) reports from the five primary care groups 		
Governance and reporting* (list other forums that have discussed this paper and any other engagement that has taken place)		
Meeting	Date	Outcomes
Primary Medical Services Group	6 August 2025	To provide oversight to the Primary Care Contracts Sub-committee of the business conducted at the groups during this period.

Primary Dental Services Group	28 August 2025			
Primary Optometric Services Group				
Pharmaceutical Services Group	20 August 2025			
Primary Care Capital Group	13 August 2025			
Conflicts of interest identified				
Implications				
<i>If yes, please provide a brief risk description and reference number</i>	YES	NO	N/A	Comments
Quality impact assessment completed			X	
Equality impact assessment completed			X	
Privacy impact assessment completed			X	
Financial impact assessment completed			X	
Associated risks	X			Any risks for sub-committee awareness are included in this triple A report
Are associated risks detailed on the ICS Risk Register?	X			Where applicable
Report authorised by	Craig Harris Chief Operating Officer			

ICB Primary Care Contracts Sub-committee
11 September 2025

Sub-committee Escalation and Assurance Report

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report highlights key matters and issues discussed at the group meetings since the last report to advise, assure and alert the sub-committee.

Committee: Primary Medical Services Group	Date: 6 August 2025	Chair: Paul Juson
--	----------------------------	--------------------------

Key Items Discussed		
Issue	Committee Update	Action
Alert		
	Nothing to Escalate	
Advise		
PCN Phlebotomist ARRS Business Case	<p>Bridgedale PCN applied for funding for a phlebotomist role under the Additional Roles Reimbursement Scheme (ARRS). The group raised concerns about additionality, noting that phlebotomy services were already being delivered through existing mechanisms such as LSCFT and Local Enhanced Services (LES).</p> <p>The group agreed to not approve the application due to insufficient evidence and the potential for duplicate funding.</p>	Communicate to Bridgedale PCN that the application was not approved.
LES Implementation Update	96% of GP practices across Lancashire and South Cumbria have signed up to LES contracts, with the highest uptake in Blackburn with Darwen, West Lancashire, and Blackpool. Wound care and ring pessary services have lower participation due to training and workforce challenges. Practices can continue to sign up in year. For non-participating practices, alternative service arrangements have been mapped locally to maintain patient care. Data collection and reporting are being phased in, focusing initially on high-volume services, with regular tracking of actual practice level activity against targets and budget. Alongside activity monitoring, there is a	Contact the procurement team regarding the direct award.

	<p>strong emphasis on quality of care, with work underway to develop quality indicators and oversight mechanisms. Agreement was given to the request to award the short-term vasectomy contracts until the 31 March 2027.</p>	
IIF / CQRS Summary	<p>The Investment and Impact Fund (IIF), part of the Network Contract Directed Enhanced Services (DES), was redesigned for 2024/2025 to focus on two national clinical priorities: HI03, which ensures patients aged 14 and over on the QOF Learning Disability register receive an annual health check, a completed Health Action Plan, and have their ethnicity recorded; and CAN04, which aims to improve cancer referral quality by ensuring that lower gastrointestinal urgent suspected cancer referrals are supported by a faecal immunochemical test result recorded within 21 days prior to referral.</p> <p>As of 29 July 2025, all but four PCNs across the ICB have submitted their IIF achievement declarations, with approved submissions resulting in payments made in July or scheduled for August. Of the four outstanding PCNs, three have not reported any issues, while one flagged a problem without specifying the element affected. All have been contacted and reminded of the 5 August deadline for commissioner approval.</p>	
Vasectomy Tariff Implementation	<p>A new vasectomy tariff was agreed in October 2024 to address historical differential payment rates across former LSC CCGs, with implementation agreed from April 2023. One practice submitted an invoice for £21,444 in September 2024 with a request for payment. The group agreed to reimbursement of the invoice based on the prior ICB written commitment.</p>	Action payment.
Haverthwaite Surgery and Dr Wilsons & Partners – Revenue support	<p>Haverthwaite Surgery applied for additional revenue funding to support legal fees arising because of their practice relocation into new premises. The Primary Care Capital Group recommended approval to fund under the Premises Cost Direction 2024 to provide continued support as part of the wider package of support to relocate. The group approved the funding.</p>	Notify the practices of the approval to fund

	<p>Dr Wilson & Partners applied for additional funding to increase their capacity within their existing premises; this was approved previously by the PMSG and PCCC in 2023 as part of a grant application. The practice is due to occupy the previously approved space before the end of this financial year and sought confirmation of the funding. The Primary Care Capital Group recommended approval of the request. The group approved the funding.</p> <p>Funding has been approved by the finance team.</p>	
Assure		
	Nothing to Escalate	

2. **Summary of items or issues referred to other committees or the Board over the reporting period.**

Committee and Date	Item or Issue	Referred to

Committee: Primary Care Dental Services Group	Date: 28th August 2025	Chair: Amy Lepiorz
--	--	---------------------------

Key Items Discussed		
Issue	Committee Update	Action
Alert		
	Nothing to Escalate	
Advise		
Incorporation Request: Woodlands Dental Partnership	<p>Woodlands Dental Partnership requested to incorporate into a limited company and transfer their NHS contract. The contract, valued at just over £123,500, provides 3,831 UDAs.</p> <p>Following an internal review, the limited company was deemed eligible, with incorporation planned for 1 October 2025.</p> <p>A five-year guarantee clause will be included due to the</p>	Provider to be notified of the approval of the Incorporation Request.

	company's recent formation, while contracted hours will remain unchanged and no additional benefits were proposed.	
Primary Care Risk Register - Dental Review	A full review of all items, and the risk register has been updated, and these will be uploaded to the VERTO system shortly.	Upload risks.
Assure		
King Street Dental Practice	Local dispute resolution has been triggered regarding the refusal to allow changes to contracting hours.	A further update will be provided at the next meeting.

2. **Summary of items or issues referred to other committees or the Board over the reporting period.**

Committee and Date	Item or Issue	Referred to

Committee: Primary Optometric Services Group	Date: 13th August 2025	Chair: Paul Juson
---	--	--------------------------

Key Items Discussed		
Issue	Committee Update	Action
Alert		
	Nothing to Escalate	
Advise		
Contract Delay	The group approved a delay in issuing a contract for a provider following delays from the contractor in arranging an introductory meeting. It was agreed that any contract would only be issued once this meeting had taken place and delivery assurances were received.	Arrange meeting with provider.
Post Payment Variation (PPV)	Risk based sampling for claims submitted between 1 January 2022 and 31 December 2023 has now been received. PPV is undertaken on a Northwest regional basis with LSC being able to identify two practices to be audited.	

Quality in Optometry (QIO)	The programme of QIO visits continue, with face-to-face visits arranged.	
Complaints Annual Submission	<p>The 2024/25 complaints survey closed on 6 June 2025. The first report received from NHS Business Service Authority (NHSBSA) indicated that 71% of LSC practices submitted their annual complaints data.</p> <p>NHSBSA have agreed with NHS England to re-open the submission window until 18 August 2025. The LOC is reminding its members.</p>	
Special Schools	A request for Information (RFI) has now been developed and has been shared with colleagues for comment.	A paper is being submitted to Commissioning Resource Group (CRG) on 29 August 2025 providing details of the proof-of-concept pilot and requesting funding for the proof-of-concept pilot to continue in its present format until the service can be procured.
Assure		

2. Summary of items or issues referred to other committees or the Board over the reporting period.

Committee and Date	Item or Issue	Referred to

Committee: Pharmaceutical Services Group	Date: 20th August 2025	Chair: Amy Lepiorz
---	--	---------------------------

Key Items Discussed		
Issue	Committee Update	Action
Alert		
Serious Operational Issues	The group were informed of serious operational issues with a contractor who owns three branches in the LSC footprint.	Set up task and finish group to consider potential contractual sanctions, support to GP practices and support to patients affected.
Advise		

FRW79 Preston Pharmacy – Request to Change Core Hours	<p>Preston Pharmacy is a 40-hour pharmacy located in Preston and applied to redistribute their current core hour opening times under paragraph 26(1) and paragraph 24(1) of Schedule 4 of the Regulations.</p> <p>Minor changes to opening hours and all regulations met. Approved</p>	Communicate approval to pharmacy.
FVL17 Peel Street Pharmacy – Request to Change Core Hours	<p>Peel Street Pharmacy is a 40-hour pharmacy located in Accrington and applied to redistribute their current core hour opening times under paragraph 26(1) of Schedule 4 of the Regulations.</p> <p>Minor changes to opening hours and all regulations met. Approved</p>	Communicate approval to pharmacy.
Assure		

2. **Summary of items or issues referred to other committees or the Board over the reporting period.**

Committee and Date	Item or Issue	Referred to

Committee: Primary Care Capital Group	Date: 13th August 2025	Chair: David Armstrong (Vice)
--	-------------------------------	--------------------------------------

Key Items Discussed		
Issue	Committee update	Action
Alert		
General Practice – Notional Rent revaluations.	The group reviewed the District Valuation Offices' tri-annual reports for notional rents for a number of practices. All revaluations are reported in line with the Premises Cost Directions (2013 or 2024).	Issue documentation to practices notifying and requesting acceptance of the revised values.
Advise		
Assure		

None		
------	--	--

3. Conclusion

3.1 Each of the service groups has conducted their business in line with their terms of reference.

4. Recommendations

4.1 The Primary Care Contracts Sub-committee is requested to:

- Receive and note the Alert, Assure and Advise (AAA) reports from the five primary care groups.

Sarah Danson and David Armstrong

Senior Delivery Assurance Managers

August 2025