

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

Date of meeting*	9 October 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		
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.		
- 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: Donna Roberts (Associate Director Primary Care)		
It also highlights any issues or items referred or escalated to Committees or the Board.		
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.		
Recommendations		
The Primary Care Contracts Sub-committee is requested to:		
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	3 September 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	17 September 2025	
Primary Care Capital Group	10 September 2025	
Conflicts of interest identified		
None.		
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 and Chief Commissioner
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ICB Primary Care Contracts Sub-committee
9 October 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: 3rd September 2025	Chair: Peter Tinson
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Key Items Discussed		
Issue	Committee Update	Action
Alert		
	Nothing to Escalate	
Advise		
Carpal Tunnel Syndrome – Blakewater	A report was presented on the Open Release Carpal Tunnel Surgery service provided by Blakewater, Blackburn with Darwen, which offers significant cost savings and clinical benefits through delivery in a primary care setting. The service provided historically as a Local Enhanced Service in Blackburn with Darwen saves approximately £27,000 annually compared to secondary care. Continuation as a pilot was supported pending submission of a proposal to Commissioning Resource Group (CRG) for future funding as part of the wider commissioning intention proposal.	Proposal to be submitted to CRG
SMS Gateway Contract	A report was presented on the SMS gateway which enables GP practices to send text messages to patients and is a requirement under the GP IT operating model. The contract will ensure service continuity while a national framework is under development. Without the SMS Gateway practices would be unable to send SMS messages, potentially disrupting patient communications. The contract is valued at £660 plus VAT per year. Finance and procurement confirmed budget availability and compliance with procurement procedures. The group approved a two-year contract for the SMS gateway.	Agree contract with provider.
Dill Hall Surgery (P81711) – List	A report was presented on the temporary contract arrangements for Dill Hall Surgery (P81711)	

Dispersal Update & rationale for dispersal methodology	provided by the East Lancashire Alliance (ELA) which is due to end on the 11 December 2025. The patient list for Dill Hall Surgery is currently 2,813. To minimise disruption to patients a proposed dispersal methodology was presented to the group, recommending the allocation of patients living within 1.5 miles of the current premises to nearby practices on a fair-share basis, while those living further away will be assigned to their nearest practice by postcode. Vulnerable patients have received a full review and additional support, and all patients have been informed of the process and retain the right to choose a different practice to the one they have been allocated should they wish to. The group noted the contents of the paper and the ongoing discussions with receiving practices to agree allocation numbers and assurance on staffing requirements.	
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 25 September 2025	Vice Chair: David Armstrong
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Key Items Discussed		
Issue	Committee Update	Action
Alert		
King Street Dental Surgery - Opening Hours Request Dispute	A request to reduce the contractual operating hours was presented to the group on the 23rd of July 2025. The group's decision was to decline this request and require the provider to continue provision of the agreed contracted hours. The provider has not agreed to this request and local dispute resolution commenced on 26 August 2025 as set out in the national dental handbook. An updated position report was presented to the group containing an appraisal of the available options. The group considered the report and agreed that the provider should continue to provide the contractual opening hours in accordance with their PDS agreement awarded following a formal procurement process in 2019.	Formally notify the provider of the outcome
Advise		
Minor Oral Surgery – Direct Award C	A report was presented to request support to action a Direct Award under the Provider Selection Regime to the 13 incumbent Minor Oral Surgery Service (MOSS) Providers in Lancashire and South Cumbria (LSC) for a period of 24 months from 1 September 2026 to 31 August 2028. The group noted the content of the report and recommended that the Primary Care Contracts Sub-committee approve the award of the 12 MOSS contracts under Direct Award C.	Paper to be presented at Primary Care Contracts Sub-committee
University of Lancashire Proposal	A report was presented outlining a request received from the University of Lancashire for a zero-value NHS dental contract to support clinical placements for international students enrolled in the Bachelor of Dental Surgery – International Route (BDSI). The proposed arrangement would enable students to deliver NHS dental services from the University's on-site clinic in Preston, with no financial cost to the NHS. The request was welcomed as a potential solution to support an increase in dental access across Preston and the immediate surrounding areas. The ICB has reviewed the request in consultation with NHS England (NHSE) and Primary Care Commissioning (PCC). Both organisations have advised that such a contract would not comply with current legislation governing NHS dental	Notify University of Lancashire of the recommendation for a MoU

	services, specifically the requirements for General Dental Services (GDS) and Personal Dental Services (PDS) contracts. These contracts mandate that care must be delivered by individuals registered with the General Dental Council (GDC) and listed on the NHS Performer List. While the University's proposal could enhance access to dental services in Preston and support workforce development, it posed significant legal and regulatory risks. Alternative approaches such as a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) or Service Level Agreement (SLA) have been identified as lower-risk options. However, the University has indicated a lack of interest in pursuing these alternatives. The group noted the content of the report and supported the recommendation for a formal MoU.	
Patient/Carer Engagement – Paediatric Oral Health Needs Assessment	A report was presented requesting the release of funding to involve and engage with service users to help inform the recommendations in the paediatric oral health needs assessment (OHNA). In alignment with the ICB's "Working with People and Communities Strategy," the involvement initiative prioritises early and inclusive engagement, particularly with disadvantaged groups, by seeking input from parents and carers who have accessed these services. Insights gathered will inform the '5 Year Dental Access and Oral Health Improvement Plan,' guiding future service transformation and funding allocation. A budget ceiling of £20k has been proposed, to be delivered by Healthwatch between October and December 2025. The group noted the content of the report and approved funding from the £50k communications budget.	
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
25 September 2025	Minor Oral Surgery – Direct Award C	Primary Care Contracts Sub-committee

Committee: Pharmaceutical Services Group	Date: 17th September 2025	Chair: Amy Lepiorz
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Key Items Discussed		
Issue	Committee Update	Action
Alert		
	Nothing to Escalate	
Advise		
Appliance Use Review - Post Payment Verification	A report was presented outlining the post payment verification work undertaken by the NHS Business Services Authority (NHSBSA) for the Appliance Use Review service, covering the period of April 2023 and March 2024, on behalf of NHS England. Evidence presented shows that, despite the best efforts of NHSBSA, no supporting information has been provided by relevant contractors when contacted regarding the claims associated with this service. The Group approved the request to reclaim any payments made.	Communicate approval to NHSBSA.
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: 10 September 2025	Chair: Donna Roberts
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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 several practices. All revaluations were approved, with a single exception and are reported in line with the Premises Cost Directions (2013 or 2024). The group requested further advice relating to one practices' review as the practice has undertaken some self-funded works the ICB was not notified of and had not pre-approved.	Issue documentation to practices notifying and requesting acceptance of the revised values. As one review was queried the District Valuation Office will be engaged to seek further clarification and advise before reviewing at the next meeting.
Recurrent Revenue Application – Fishergate Hill Surgery	The group reviewed an application from the practice to increase their recurrent reimbursable rents because of the enlargement of the patient car park by 5 parking spaces, at a cost to the ICB of £1,300 per annum.	Inform the practice and the District Valuation Office of the ICB decision to reject the application to fund the

	The group rejected the application as the practice had not pre-notified the ICB of the works and sought approval before progressing and increasing the number of car parking spaces.	additional 5 space within the application.
Advise		
GPIT Applications	The group undertook a review of the GPIT project Initiation Document (PID). The PID submitted was in line with the guidance on GPIT investments, has been developed to provide additional equipment for ARRS (Additional Roles Reimbursement Scheme) staff, to fully utilise the additional capital allocation received by the ICB for the specific use for ARRS roles. In accordance with the decision-making matrix the PIDs have been approved and will progress to NHS England for their formal approval.	Submit the PIDs to NHS England Northwest for formal approval, authorisation of the PID from the ICB Director of Finance, NHSE Director of Digital, NHSE NW Regional Director of Finance
Assure		
	Nothing to Escalate	

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