

Shaping your local healthcare

Nene Clinical Commissioning Group

Your local Health Clinical Commissioning Group

What's happening to the NHS near me?

From April 2013, the NHS is changing so that local doctors and other medical professionals and patients can have more influence in how and what the NHS spends its money on. Local Doctors/General Practitioners (GPs) have formed Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) which will be the local organisations responsible for spending the majority of the local health budget on services from Hospitals to Community Nurses, to operations, to prescriptions.

These changes are based on the idea that patients will enjoy better healthcare if decisions that affect local people can be made by local clinicians and patients. It also means that local patients, carers and groups are able to directly contribute to improving the services that affect them.

The CCG responsible for North Daventry, Wellingborough, Kettering, Southern and Eastern Northamptonshire and Central, Eastern, Southern and Western Northampton is Nene Clinical Commissioning Group. It represents all 71 GP surgeries and will be responsible for providing services to the 626,000 patients registered with a Nene GP.

We know that each of these areas have different health needs and to make sure that the right services are delivered, each area has a team from the CCG, the surgeries, patient groups and other partners that are already working together to ensure you receive the best healthcare services possible. Nene CCG needs to be innovative and effective if it is going to produce better services whilst reducing the increasing cost of healthcare due to our ageing and growing population.

Our healthcare's priorities for the Nene areas

- To provide more services and care close to home so patients don't need to go to hospital
- To make sure we plan services that are the best quality they can be by using the latest medical thinking and patients views
- To join up work with local partners in the Nene areas so we respond quickly to get new services up and running by having less bureaucracy and red tape
- To talk to our patients about overall good health and healthy lifestyles so that people can manage long term health conditions and healthier lives

What we're working on

Bringing care closer to home

The development of community hubs in each area will provide a focal point for a range of healthcare services to patients and carers. Surgeries will work closely with community services such as district nurses and health visitors to ensure that patients have more access to local care.

- The development of hubs in Isebrook, Highfields and Danetre are planned for 2012 with hubs being planned in other areas over the next few years
- More support for carers to allow patients to be cared for at home
- Improved support for parents who need urgent attention for their children
- Increased care for the elderly to prevent the need to go to hospital

Providing high quality services

Our vision is for patients to receive the right care, in the right place, at the right time. Some of the things we plan to introduce to support this are:

- Improved referral systems – more support and training for GPs and nurses to identify when symptoms should be referred. This will make sure that patients are not referred unnecessarily and will leave appointments open for those who really need them
- To offer patients the option to visit specialist local doctors to deal with specialist condition such as diabetes, ear nose and throat problems, eye, skin and heart conditions
- Development of a stroke unit that will provide the best care to respond to emergencies
- Providing the opportunity to patients, with long term conditions, to manage their own healthcare
- Increasing the support for families who care for children with long term conditions

Support for mental health and wellbeing

We have begun a review of local mental health and wellbeing services so that we can help more patients: We are hoping to introduce the following improvements:

- Faster rehabilitation of patients by providing individual care plans
- We are also looking at redesigning specialist learning disability services and increasing supported accommodation options for people with learning disabilities

Healthier Together

Nene Clinical Commissioning Group and its partners across the region share a view that hospital care can be improved by working together more effectively. Healthier Together is a partnership project that involves the five district general hospitals (across Northamptonshire, Milton Keynes, Bedfordshire and Luton) working with Nene CCG and other health and social care organisations to look at how some services can be improved for the medium and long term.

Changes that are so important need feedback and ideas from the people who use the hospitals the most, the patients. So, whether its by providing more specialists and experts in specific areas, or taking services out of the hospital and putting them into communities, or, reducing the administration of getting patients into or out of hospital, lots of work is taking place to talk to local people. For more information about the project, please visit www.healthiertogether.northamptonshire.nhs.uk.

Improving lifestyles across the Nene districts

Each district has its own unique personality and community spirit. However it has one healthcare vision in common – wellbeing. Nene CCG is set up to ensure that healthcare in each area is relevant to the needs and issues for your district.

Patients can and should expect to talk to their doctors about their overall health and lifestyle as part of a visit to your GP - after all, they are the people who want you to keep well for the long term and will know your health the best.

GPs and Nurses will tell you about small lifestyle changes that can make a massive difference to lower the risk of serious conditions like Cancer, Heart Disease and Stroke.

Nene CCG is therefore working with interested groups in your area on things like:

- Detecting Cancer early and encouraging patients to take part in screening
- Lifestyle improvements to prevent Heart disease and Stroke
- Identifying and supporting mental health

How can I get involved?

We know how important the NHS and its services are to everyone, so we want to make sure that local people and organisations are involved every step of the way. We will keep you up-to-date with everything that is going on, and we want to hear your views.

There are lots of different ways to join in shaping future healthcare across Nene, here are a few:

Patient Participation Groups (PPGs) – One of the best ways to have your say about local health services is to join your GP surgery's PPG. These groups meet regularly, and as well as influencing what happens within your own practice, your views on Nene-wide issues can also be fed up to the Healthcare and Wellbeing Board. This will ensure that your views are considered before making decisions on behalf of your local area.

Become a member

If you would like to be involved but don't want to go to meetings at your local surgery, why not sign up to be a member of Pulse, the patient membership scheme. Signup online at www.nenecommissioning.com and you can take part in surveys, receive updates and invitations to local initiatives. This is also a perfect way to find out more about big developments.

Organisations

If you work or volunteer for a local organisation and would like to be involved in the local forums to have your say in the delivery of healthcare in your area please get in touch.