

Committee:	Date:
Health and Wellbeing Board	30 September 2014
Subject: GP contract changes – out of area registrations	Public
Report of: Director of Community and Children’s Services	For Information

Summary

This paper provides a summary of the report from NHS England, *Out of Area GP Registrations from 1 October 2014: Update for City of London Health and Wellbeing Board* (presentation attached as an appendix). Together, they outline the changes to GP contracts from October 2014. As a result of these changes, GP practices who choose to will be able to accept registrations from patients who are not resident in their practice area (“out of area patients”). Given the high number of people who work in the City but live elsewhere and are currently registered with GP practices in their home areas, if local GP practices opt to participate in this scheme it may not be possible to meet demand. The presentation from NHS England outlines the changes and the resulting challenges if this scheme is adopted locally. Further verbal updates will be provided at the meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Board on 30th September.

Recommendation(s)

- Members are asked to note the appendix to this report from NHS England, *Out of Area GP Registrations from 1 October 2014: Update for City of London Health and Wellbeing Board (presentation)*

Main Report

Background

1. Changes to GP contract changes come into effect from 1st October 2014, and include the option for GP practices to be able register patients from outside of their practice area, if they wish to participate in the scheme.

Current Position

2. All GP practices will be free to register patients from outside their practice area (referred to as ‘out of area patients’), without any obligation on the practice to provide home visits or out of hours services when the patient is at

home, away from, and unable to attend, their registered practice. It is voluntary for GP practices.

3. In these circumstances NHS England will be responsible for ensuring out of area patients can continue to access primary medical services when they are at home and cannot make it to their registered practice area.
4. This requires NHS England area teams to put in place arrangements to secure in-hours primary medical care services for out of area patients who live in their area. These will provide access to a home visit when clinically needed, or more likely, when an out of area patient is too unwell to be expected to travel to their registered practice area but could travel to a local provider for a consultation with a GP or other healthcare practitioner.
5. The City of London has a very high daytime population (mainly City workers) compared to a small resident population, meaning that demand from out of area patients to register with a GP in the City could be very high and it is unlikely that local GP practices could meet this demand. It would also be difficult to predict demand.
6. A decision has yet to be taken about whether GP practices within the City and Hackney CCG area will opt to participate in the scheme.

Proposals

7. This report does not include any proposals, although the Board may wish to request to be kept informed of any developments in this area and the likely impact on access to healthcare services for both City residents and workers.

Conclusion

8. Members are asked to note the presentation from NHS England, *Out of Area GP Registrations from 1 October 2014: Update for City of London Health and Wellbeing Board*.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 - *Out of Area GP Registrations from 1 October 2014: Update for City of London Health and Wellbeing Board (presentation)*

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