

<b>Committee(s)</b>	<b>Dated:</b>
Health and Wellbeing Board	20 February 2015
<b>Subject:</b> Out of area GP registrations: update	<b>Public</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Director of Community and Children's Services	<b>For Information</b>

### Summary

This paper provides a summary of the report from NHS England, *Out of Area GP Registrations from 5 January 2015: Update for City of London Health and Wellbeing Board* (presentation attached as an appendix). This outlines the changes to GP contracts from January 2015. 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"). At present, no local GP practices have opted to participate in the scheme. However, some have opted to provide an "enhanced service", which means that if City residents choose to register with a GP elsewhere, they will be able to go to local practices for emergency appointments or have a home visit when they are unable to travel to the GP practice they are registered with. There are currently no plans for non-City residents to be able to register with local GPs. However, this remains an ongoing issue for the Health and Wellbeing Board, as a large number of people work in the City, but live elsewhere and could benefit from being able to access health services in the City.

### Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- Note the appendix to this report from NHS England, *Out of Area GP Registrations from 5 January 2015: Update for City of London Health and Wellbeing Board (presentation)*.

### Main Report

#### Background

1. Changes to GP contract came into effect from 5<sup>th</sup> January 2015, and include the option for GP practices to register patients from outside of their practice area, if they wish to participate in the scheme.
2. The Board initially received a report on this change from NHS England at the 30<sup>th</sup> September 2015 Health and Wellbeing Board meeting. However, they were informed that the implementation date had been delayed from October 2014 to January 2015. At the meeting, Members noted that the City of London

had 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 potentially be very high and it was unlikely that the single local GP practice could meet this demand in its current state. It could also be difficult to predict demand.

3. Members also questioned the legal challenge which GPs may face if they did not endorse the contract, and it was agreed that NHS England would update the Board again to provide clarification on legal issues following the implementation of the contract changes in January.

### **Current Position**

4. 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 i.e. away from and unable to attend their registered practice. It is voluntary for GP practices to participate.
5. 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 unable to attend appointments in their registered practice area.
6. NHS England area teams have 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.
7. It remains difficult to quantify the scope and extent of demand for these services.
8. Some local GP practices, including the Neaman Practice, have opted to provide an "enhanced service", which means that if City residents choose to register with a GP elsewhere, they will be able to go to local practices for emergency appointments or have a home visit when they are unable to travel to the GP practice they are registered with.
9. There are currently no plans for non-City residents to be able to register with local GPs. However, this remains an ongoing issue for the Health and Wellbeing Board, as a large number of people work in the City, but live elsewhere and could benefit from being able to access health services in the City. This issue is being addressed in part through plans for the proposed Workplace Health Centre.

### **Proposals**

10. 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**

11. Members are asked to note the presentation from NHS England, *Out of Area GP Registrations from 5 January 2015: Update for City of London Health and Wellbeing Board*.

## **Appendices**

- Appendix 1 - *Out of Area GP Registrations from 5 January 2015: Update for City of London Health and Wellbeing Board (presentation)*

## **Sarah Thomas**

Health and Wellbeing Executive Support Officer

T: 020 7332 3223

E: [sarah.thomas@cityoflondon.gov.uk](mailto:sarah.thomas@cityoflondon.gov.uk)