

Patient Newsletter

BCO
BASSETLAW COMMISSIONING
ORGANISATION

Welcome

Welcome to our first newsletter for the population of Bassetlaw. We hope that this will provide you with useful information on the work of the Bassetlaw Commissioning Organisation (BCO) and show how we plan to further improve the quality of local healthcare services.

2011 has proved more eventful than we first imagined when BCO was first established in April last year. The structure of the whole NHS is changing with a Bill currently going through Parliament so there will be further changes as we move towards 2013 when BCO will formally take over from Bassetlaw Primary Care Trust. It has been a challenge keeping up to date with the national issues and opinions and making the changes work for our patients locally. BCO has been actively working on the basis that we needed to have a strong voice for patients and services, that we wanted to be progressive and that we needed to be flexible as national policy alters.

As there are so many changes happening we are using this newsletter to answer some of the most frequently asked questions but would be very pleased to hear from you if you have any further questions or there is any information you would like us to include in future newsletters - The contact details are on the last page.

Steve Kell - Chairman

What is Bassetlaw Commissioning Organisation?

Bassetlaw Commissioning Organisation (BCO) becomes the local organisation responsible for local healthcare services next month. BCO is a Clinical Commissioning Group, led by GPs, and formed as the successor organisation to the Primary Care Trust (PCT), NHS Bassetlaw. For the past 15 months BCO has been working in partnership with the PCT which has been commissioning services since 2001 and hopes to continue the work of the PCT as the strong local voice for healthcare services.

BCO will be clinically led, and will work with local managers, patients, councils and other groups to ensure Bassetlaw patients get high quality healthcare. The organisation will initially operate under the South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw Cluster, and hopes to become a fully authorised organisation next year when the new NHS structures are finalised.

Who are the clinical leaders of BCO?

All the GP Practices in Bassetlaw are members of BCO so it is an excellent way of ensuring that everyone knows what is going on and when one practice has a good idea it can be shared with the others as quickly as possible. The organisation is chaired by Dr Steve Kell, a GP at Larwood and Village Surgeries, and has seven GPs on its Executive Management Committee. These are:

Dr Andrew Perkins (Bawtry and Blyth Surgery)
Dr Michael Ho (Riverside Surgery)
Dr Kate Fairholme (Newgate Street Surgery)
Dr Heshan Ariyesena (Crown House Surgery)
Dr Steve Kell (Larwood Surgery) - Chair
Dr Nanthakumar (Larwood Surgery)
Dr Nikolas Craig (Bridgegate Surgery) (Not In Photo)



Developing New Services

One of the benefits of a clinically led organisation is that we have really good relationships with hospital clinicians. We continue to work closely with our colleagues at Bassetlaw Hospital to make sure that we have the best care available for people who are acutely ill. However, our patients are always telling us that they don't want to go into hospital if they don't need to so we are setting up systems to ensure that patients can be treated at home or in their GP Practices wherever possible.

We have led on a number of improvements in local services over the last year. We are very pleased to be launching a new musculoskeletal assessment and treatment service for patients with orthopaedic problems and a dermatology community service for patients with skin conditions. We have also made significant progress in changing how patients are treated for some of the most common conditions such as pain management, glaucoma, knee problems and deep vein thrombosis.

Clinical Services Review

The Clinical Services Review has been a major focus for BCO. We have agreed to continue fracture neck of femur (broken hip surgery) locally with improved outcomes and are working closely with the hospital staff to agree the best place to treat trauma patients. We have made a commitment to having babies born in Bassetlaw and to a consultant led obstetric service following a review of the options. The plans for the Assessment and Treatment Centre are still being developed. This centre, which will be based at Bassetlaw Hospital, will aim to ensure that people can be diagnosed by senior clinicians as quickly as possible and returned home for supported care whenever possible.

Quality, Innovation, Productivity and Prevention – QIPP

NHS funding is limited across the country so a key challenge for all Clinical Commissioning Groups will be making sure services represent good quality, value for money and are efficient. All areas have significant challenges to reduce costs and waste, and in Bassetlaw this year the target is £5.7million. BCO is committed to achieving this in a way that allows us to continue to invest in services and will do this by increasing services in the community, reducing avoidable hospital admissions and ensuring prescribing is cost-effective. Most importantly, BCO will make sure that any planned changes to services maintain or improve the quality of care that is offered and result in improved outcomes for patients.

Our latest information shows that BCO is making good progress on its QIPP plan for the year whilst it ensures that the quality of care remains good. However, there continue to be higher than expected levels of attendances at A+E for minor conditions which could be managed by their own GP so we are launching a value for money campaign which is designed to explain to patients what the options are for urgent care so that everyone can be seen in the best place.

Health and Wellbeing Board

We are working closely with Nottinghamshire County Council on the Health and Wellbeing Board. This is because we know that good health is the result of much more than good health services. The Health and Wellbeing Board will put together a joint plan that sets out how the NHS, Social Care, Education and Police can all work together to help people to be healthier. This Health and Wellbeing Strategy will focus on improving outcomes for patients so we will be monitored on the things that really matter to our patients.

Community Services Provider

In line with national policy we have been through a robust process to transfer our Community Services to another organisation. We are pleased to announce that Nottinghamshire Healthcare Trust will be taking on this role and we look forward to working closely with them.

Recognising our achievements

BCO was identified last year as a Pathfinder which means that we are held up as a national example of good practice to other Clinical Commissioning Groups. This means that there has been a lot of interest in what we are doing. For example we were visited last year by Lord Howe Health Minister who talked to us about the support that was needed by GPs to set up the new systems and gave us a chance to input into national policy.

We have also just been shortlisted with two others as a finalist for the most advanced CCG by the National Association of Primary Care which reflects the huge amount of progress made in a short time.

Working with the voluntary sector

BCO met with the Bassetlaw Voluntary and Community Sector organisations in June. The main aims of the meeting were to develop a better working relationship, to introduce the BCO GPs and Officers and to update participants on developments at Bassetlaw District Council. Following the meeting, it was decided to set up a working group to develop and implement an action plan to take forward the ideas discussed at the event to promote a more integrated approach to partnership working in the future. A further meeting will be held this autumn.

How can you get involved?

One of our priorities for the next year is to get as many people as possible involved in the work of BCO so we can make sure that everything we do is informed by the views of our local population. There are a number of different ways to become involved but one of the easiest is to become a member of your own GP Practice's Patient Participation Group. These groups are led by patients themselves and are a good way of influencing what happens in your own practice as well as wider health services. If you would like to join one of these groups just ask your practice for more information.

We are also developing a list of people who would like to receive more information about BCO and be kept up to date on service developments. If you would like to be added to our mailing list or would like more information about other ways to become involved in BCO or have any suggestions you can visit;

our website www.bcopbc.nhs.uk or contact emma.ducker@bassetlaw-pct.nhs.uk

