

What is a Clinical Commissioning Group?

Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG's) are clinically managed organisations where decisions about health services will be led by GPs and other clinical professionals who have a good understanding of what is needed by patients and the locality. The CCG clinicians will also work with experienced health service managers who know how to manage change and can support and develop staff to improve the way that they provide care as well as setting up and monitoring the systems needed to ensure things run efficiently.

What is Bassetlaw Commissioning Organisation?

Bassetlaw Commissioning Organisation (BCO) is the new local CCG for Bassetlaw responsible for local healthcare services. It has been 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 aims to continue the work of the PCT as the strong local voice for healthcare services. The organisation (including 11 GP practices in Bassetlaw) hopes to become fully authorised next year when the new NHS structures are finalised.



The organisation, chaired by Dr Steve Kell, a GP at Larwood and Village Surgeries (Worksop), is led by seven GPs. These are: Dr Steve Kell (Larwood Surgery) – Chair, Dr Nikolas Craig (Bridgeway Surgery), Dr Andrew Perkins (Bawtry and Blyth Surgery), Dr Kate Fairholme (Newgate Street Surgery), Dr Heshan Ariyeesena (Crown House Surgery), Dr Michael Ho (Riverside Surgery), Dr Vaithilingam Nanthakumar (Larwood Surgery)

What are our plans?

The GPs are committed to making sure patients are seen in the right place as quickly as possible, and that all patients who require specialist input continue to receive this now and in the future. BCO is keen to ensure that local health services meet the needs of the local population and are easy to access so we are looking to change the way we deliver care in a number of areas. For example, we have established new community services in orthopaedics, dermatology and deep vein thrombosis (DVT).

NHS funding is limited across the country so a key challenge will be making sure services are of a high quality, represent value for money and are efficient. All CCGs nationally 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 to 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.

One of the other benefits of a clinically led organisation is that we have positive relationships with hospital clinicians. We continue to work closely with our colleagues at Doncaster and Bassetlaw Hospitals Foundation Trust to make sure that we have the best care available for people who are acutely ill. However, patients tell us that they don't want to go into hospital if they don't need to so we are setting up services to allow patients to be treated at home or in their GP Practices where we can.

We are also working closely with Nottinghamshire County Council to establish a 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 patients.

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 that we can ensure 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 email your contact details to emma.ducker@bassetlaw-pct.nhs.uk**