

Update

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Introducing Durham, Darlington and Teesside NHS mental health and learning disability partnership

Durham, Darlington and Teesside NHS mental health and learning disability partnership (formerly accountable care partnership) is about working together to improve outcomes for people with mental health and learning disability needs.

In County Durham, Darlington and Teesside, this involves the five local clinical commissioning groups working together with service provider Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust, to improve the quality of care across the system.

Our key focus is on case management, working closely with service users, carers and families, considering their care packages to ensure they receive the support they need.

Our vision

Durham, Darlington and Teesside NHS mental health and learning disability partnership will work together as one responsive system to plan, buy and deliver high quality, best value health services for those living with learning disability or mental health needs.

Our aims

The partnership is working to ensure all service users receive the same level of assurance over the quality of care and support they receive. Our aims are to:

- provide assurance around quality of care
- improve the case management process
- ensure contractual arrangements are in place and delivered
- manage the financial risks associated with packages of care

The partnership isn't about saving money or linked to financial pressures; it makes sure funding set aside for mental health and learning disability services remains within those services. Through the partnership, we can provide a more streamlined system, with all the partner organisations working together to act as commissioners, making better use of our collective resources. This allows us to work towards more effective contract management, with a more consistent approach towards outcomes.

How will service users benefit?

Service users can expect to have more involvement in developing and reviewing their care package, to ensure they receive the right support and treatment to meet their needs. This may involve making some changes, but this will only be done to achieve positive improvements.

A pilot in 2017 reviewed 63 adult learning disability cases, of which 32 had quality improvements agreed for individual care packages. This included reductions in medication, increased activity, issues correctly identified and less restrictions for the service user. Providers reported improved communication, greater resources/skills available and quicker more sustainable outcomes.

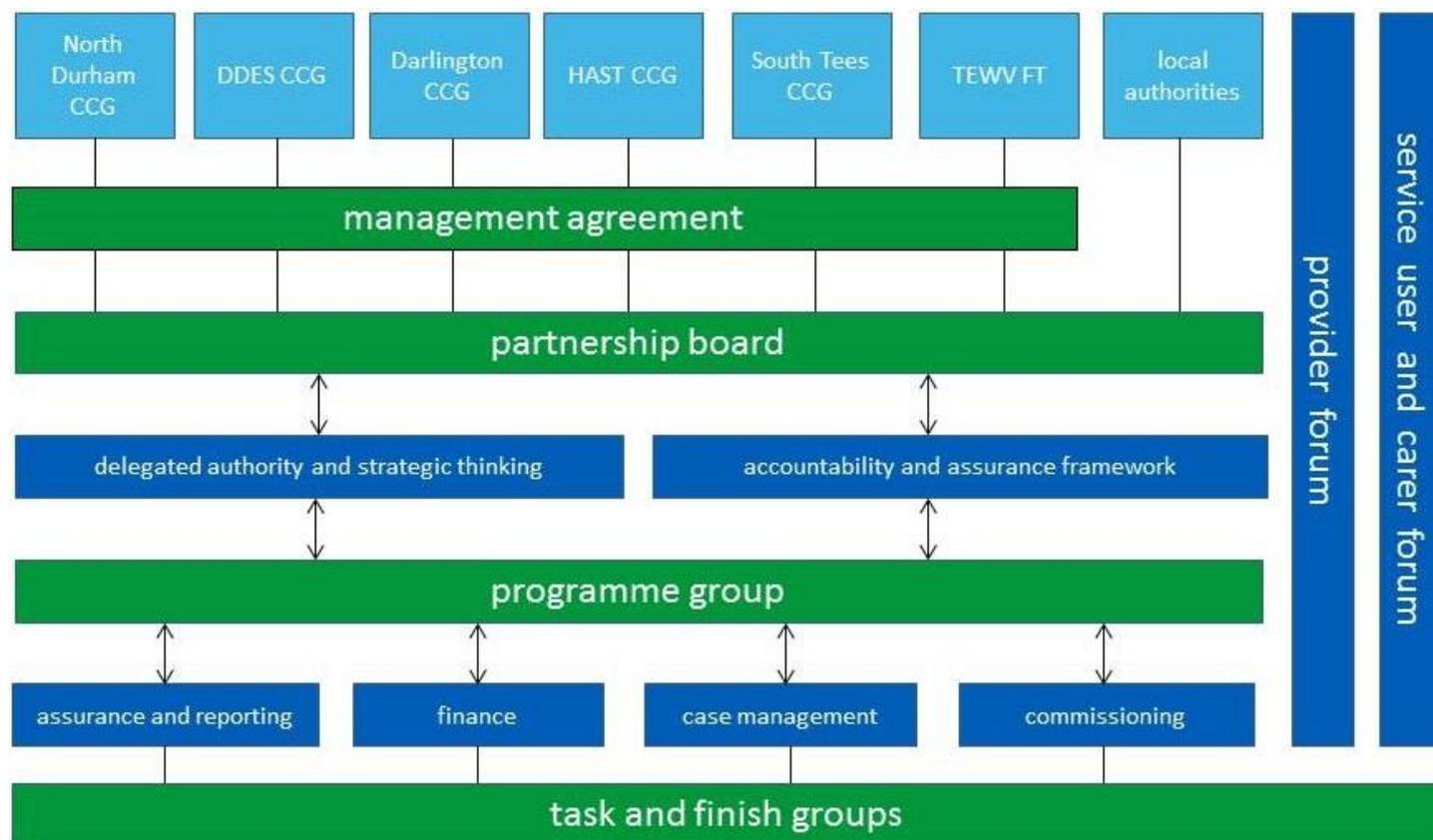
Who is involved?

Durham, Darlington and Teesside NHS mental health and learning disability partnership includes:

- Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust (TEWV)
- NHS clinical commissioning groups: Darlington CCG; Durham Dales, Easington & Sedgefield (DDES) CCG; Hartlepool and Stockton on Tees (HAST) CCG; North Durham CCG; South Tees CCG
- North of England Commissioning Support unit (NECS) (on behalf of the five CCGs)

The partnership also works closely with local authorities and other healthcare service providers across the Durham, Darlington and Teesside area.

How does the partnership work?



Assurance and reporting

Currently there is a lot of duplication and repeated ways in which information on services is reported. We need to reduce this and make sure there are consistent and easier ways of providing assurance on the quality of care being delivered.

Finance

We will make sure the right budget and financial transactions are in place across the partnership.

Case management

We will ensure good quality assessments and services are in place for people receiving packages of care to support their mental health and learning disability needs.

Commissioning

This group will lead on the planning, buying and review of learning disability and mental health services for people from Durham Tees Valley and align the direction of services for all the partners.

What does this mean for providers?

Providers will continue to deliver the same services, however they now do so on behalf of the accountable care partnership.

As care packages and process are reviewed, partners and providers will have the opportunity to contribute and progress a more integrated approach, with a view to improving efficiency and quality.

What will happen next?

The next stage is to review more care packages across the Durham Darlington and Teesside area, working together to ensure we look at those people who will benefit most.

Over the next few months, a process and criteria will be developed to determine the best approach and how to identify which care packages need to be reviewed.

For further information please contact:

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