



Solihull CCG Medicines Management and Optimisation Services

Annual Report 2015/16



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Foreword

I am delighted to introduce our Annual Report that has successfully demonstrated high quality and volume of delivery in 2015-16 for Solihull CCG.

This report is a testimonial to our partnership with the CCG and recognises the depth of work, commitment and ability of the Medicines Management and Optimisation CSU staff that have supported the CCG this year. Particular thanks must go to Kate Arnold, Head of Medicines and Primary Care Development for her support in the last year.

It has been a great privilege to continue to work with the CCG team, and their staff to support measured improvement for medicines management for the population.

We are pleased to continue this work in 2016/17, and are working hard to build on this legacy for the coming years.

We would like to thank the CCG and wish all the staff well for the future.

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The hub medicines management team (Midlands)



1. Executive Summary:

This annual report summarises the activity and delivery across Medicines Management and Optimisation (MMO) services commissioned by Solihull Clinical Commissioning Group (SCCG) from Midlands and Lancashire Commissioning Support Unit (MLCSU) from April 2015 to March 2016. The purpose of this MMO service was to ensure that the CCG had access to suitably qualified, specialist advice and analysis to inform and support its commissioning activities in respect of medicines management and optimisation services.

2. Key workstreams

The key workstreams and successes achieved by MLCSU Medicines Management hub team in 2015/16 included:

Area Prescribing Committee and Formulary decisions: The Birmingham, Sandwell, Solihull and environs Area Prescribing Committee (BSSE APC) website incorporates up to date national and localised information to support clinicians.

Administration of Non-Medical Prescriber Codes

Individual Funding Requests and Prior Approval Processes

Production of Patient Group Directions

Support for Controlled Drugs Management

Support for Community Pharmacy engagement

3. Statements

A testimonial for the Area Prescribing Committee Secretariat

“After 10 years plus of being told that a single formulary for Birmingham was not possible, we finally managed to deliver just that – in fact a single formulary for Birmingham, Solihull and Sandwell, as well as parts of our neighbours. MLCSU added huge value to the process of setting up both the formulary and the supporting Area Prescribing Committee by co-ordinating all of the initial discussions, working up the documentation and processes and keeping everyone focused on the outcomes. They continue to play an important role in the APC, having been instrumental in its setup, by managing the routine administration of the committee and freeing up its members to concentrate on the business of the APC”

Mark DasGupta,
Associate Director, Medicines Management,
Birmingham CrossCity CCG



4. Introduction

Solihull Clinical Commissioning Group (SCCG) commissioned Midlands and Lancashire Commissioning Support Unit (MLCSU) to provide strategic support to the CCG medicines management and optimisation services.

During 2015/16, the MLCSU hub team successfully provided specialist advice and analysis to support the CCG to achieve the desired outcomes with respect to MMO. These included:

- discharge of its statutory duties with regard to medicines management in a properly managed and timely way.
- being aware of emerging new medicines and drugs and associated trends in medicines developments and the NHS funding flows associated with these, so that the CCG's planning and business case activities are well-informed (including where NICE clinical guidelines impact).

5. Client engagement

The Medicines Management Team across the CSU in the Midlands and North West region is led by Jonathan Horgan, Head of Medicines Management (HoMM) and IFR services. The HoMM and the CSU local service lead meet regularly (at least quarterly) with Kate Arnold, CCG Head of Medicines and Primary Care Development to report on and support monitoring and progress review of the commissioned MMO work streams in line with CCG priorities.

6. Medicines Management hub Services

The MLCSU Medicines Management hub team provided expert advice and professional support to Solihull Clinical Commissioning Group. We worked in partnership with the CCG to ensure delivery of the services as set out in the service level agreement, acting at all times within the delegations of the CCG.

Services provided by the hub team included: administration of the Area Prescribing Committee, harmonisation and maintenance of the joint formulary, production of independent drug reviews to support formulary applications, and implementation of NICE Technology Appraisals.

Our service also included: development and review of (CCG) Patient Group Directions, management of Non-Medical Prescriber codes, Controlled Drugs supervision and management and support for the Individual Funding Request (IFR) processes which included production of medicines reviews for full IFR panels.

The hub team also supported NHS England commissioned community pharmacy enhanced services and continues to work closely with our community pharmacy colleagues, NHS England and the Local Pharmaceutical Committee (LPC), to ensure integration and maintenance of existing good working relationships



6.1 Area Prescribing Committee and Joint Formulary decisions

MLCSU was commissioned to establish and provide secretariat support to the Birmingham, Sandwell, Solihull and environs Area Prescribing Committee (BSSE APC) and develop a Joint formulary that harmonised three acute trusts and five non-Acute trusts' formularies with the aim of promoting safe, evidence-based and cost-effective prescribing within the local community.

The BSSE APC has been successfully operating since June 2014. The secretariat function was provided by senior commissioning pharmacists and an administrator and this involved production of minutes of meetings, various documentation, independent drug reviews (IDR) for new drug applications as well as specialist advice and wider expertise on policies and NICE Technology Appraisals. In addition, the secretariat function involves collating members Annual Declaration of Interests as well as any specialist attending the meeting to assure transparency in the decision making process.

MLCSU has been successful in developing a unified joint formulary that would bring together acute and non- acute trusts to work together across the Birmingham, Solihull and environs health economy. The harmonised Joint Formulary is available electronically on the netFormulary® platform at www.birminghamandsurroundsformulary.nhs.uk with all BNF Chapters now harmonised and 13 out of 15 chapters published. Key decision makers are granted the opportunity to contribute to and co-produce new guidance. To date, there has been **40,259** visits to the BSSE APC netFormulary® site. This work is delivered in partnership with all the MMO (CCG and NHS Trust) teams that relate to the APC.

During 2015/16, MLCSU delivered secretariat support for the following:

- 11 APC meetings
- 4 Away days for therapy areas harmonisation
- 11 new drug applications screened
- 4 IDRs
- 11 NICE TA adherence check lists
- 34 Effective Shared Care Agreements (ESCAs) and 21 Rationales for Initiation Continuation and Discontinuation (RICaDs) which support the safe transfer of prescribing from secondary care to primary care for the benefit of the patients.

6.2 Non Medical Prescriber Codes and NHSBA notifications

All Non-Medical Prescribers (NMPs) working in GP practices, walk in centres etc. must be registered as a prescriber with NHS Business Services Authority (NHSBSA).

MLCSU hub team processes requests for NMPs to be set up (or removed) as prescribers at a medical practice or cost centre under the CCG.

In 2015/16, 17 NMPs were added and 8 NMPs were removed.



6.3 Freedom of Information (FOI) requests

There is a statutory obligation (Freedom of Information Act 2000) to respond to all Freedom of Information (FOI) requests within 20 working days. MLCSU supports Solihull CCG with FOI requests relating to the Birmingham, Sandwell, Solihull and environs Area Prescribing Committee by providing expert medicines management advice and co-ordinating a response within the required timeframe.

6.4 Individual Funding Requests and Prior Approval Processes

An individual funding request (IFR) can be made by a clinician if they believe that a particular treatment or service that is not routinely offered by the NHS is the best treatment for the patient, given their individual clinical circumstances.

MLCSU hub medicines management team is responsible for providing advice on IFR applications on behalf of Solihull CCG via its IFR team.

Where prior approval is required from the CCG for funding certain clinical procedures or NICE approved medications, MLCSU medicines management team provides expert advice to the IFR team.

In 2015/16, the medicines management hub team supported a total of 16 screening panel meetings at which 20 applications were evaluated.

6.5 Patient Group Directions

PGDs (Patient Group Directions) allow the supply and/or administration of prescription medicines without a prescription by some healthcare professionals, to a pre-defined group of patients needing prophylaxis or treatment for a condition described in the PGD e.g. nurses administering immunisation vaccines to children. PGDs offer multiple benefits to patients, including providing equity in the availability and quality of services, reducing delays in treatment and improving access to appropriate medicines.

The medicines management team have developed PGDs using a robust process involving an experienced multi-disciplinary team of a doctor, microbiologist, nurse and pharmacist using all relevant evidence based resources like The Green Book, NICE clinical guidance, NICE CKS, SMC, BNF, MIMS, SPC and UKMI. The PGDs were developed for practice nurses to allow them to administer travel vaccines to patients without seeing a doctor. This helps to save GPs time to deal with serious medical conditions.

In 2015/16 MLCSU developed seven travel PGDs for Solihull CCG allowing practice nurses to administer travel vaccines to patients without them having to see a GP.



6.6 Community Pharmacy Services

MLCSU supported Solihull CCG by engaging with community pharmacy and the Local Pharmaceutical Committee. Local pharmacy services are commissioned by NHS England who contract MLCSU to provide commissioning support for these services at scale across a number of CCGs. The CSU provided leadership and support across these interfaces to develop services in line with the local strategies.

The NHSE Commissioned community pharmacy enhanced services report for 2015/16 which covers pharmacies within Solihull CCG is available as a separate annual report.

6.6.1 Minor Ailments Scheme

The Minor Ailments Scheme is a locally commissioned CCG service where exempt patients with specific minor ailments are able to access medication free of charge from community pharmacies after a suitable consultation. The aim of this service is to reduce GP consultations for conditions that can be managed by over the counter medications. MLCSU was responsible for full service design moving a paper based minor ailments service to an online platform.

There were 1014 consultations in the last financial year for patients registered to GP Practices participating in the Solihull CCG minor ailments Scheme. 1006 of these consultations were for 1 or more drugs. When audited, 795 of these patient consultations reported they would have gone to their GP had the scheme not been available. A further 79 patients reported they would have gone to a walk in centre, A&E or an out of hours clinic had the scheme not been available.



6.7 Controlled Drugs Service

MLCSU medicines management hub team supported the NHS England (West Midlands) Controlled Drugs Accountable Officer from 1st April 2013 until 31st December 2015. This work supports a number of CCGs and other organisations locally;

2015/16 MLCSU successfully delivered the following activities:

- Following up incidents involving controlled drugs with community pharmacies, GP practices, Care Homes etc. to ensure root cause analysis has been undertaken and the learning has been taken on board.
- Witnessed Controlled Drugs Destruction in Community pharmacies and GP practices.
- Production of bulletins and newsletters covering good practice, sharing learning points from incidents, information about forthcoming legislative changes etc. Facilitated distribution of alerts to community pharmacies regarding lost or stolen CD prescriptions.
- Management of Private CD prescriber code and private prescription pad/ requisition form requests. Set up Private CD submission codes for community pharmacies.
- Provide advice regarding controlled drugs management in GP practices, community pharmacies etc.
- Controlled Drugs self-assessment report was submitted to NHSE. This report includes analysis of the self-assessment questionnaires and recommends actions to address areas of concern.
- Controlled Drugs Prescribing Monitoring.
- Review application for setting up Authorised Witnesses (multiple pharmacies and other organisations).
- Dissemination of information regarding controlled drugs from various sources.
- Manage Controlled Drugs Local Intelligence Network (CDLIN) meetings (arrange meetings, prepare agenda, produce reports for the meeting, present at the meeting, implement actions from the meeting etc).

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