

Darlington CCG assurance report – Quarter 3 2013/14

Headline assessment – Assured

Focus	Assurance level	Particular achievements noted / examples of good practice	Issues identified	Any issues identified requiring further action and actions agreed
Are patients receiving clinically commissioned, high quality service?	Assured	Care Home Pilot – clinically led, with scope for larger scale deployment		
Are patients and the public actively engaged and involved?	Assured	Patient and Public Engagement Charter, Community Council and Patient Participation Groups		Ensure an ongoing focus on improving the response rates and performance in relation to the Friends and Family Test figures for CDDFT
Are CCG plans delivering better outcomes for patients?	Assured with Support	Primary Care Strategy – business case funded by NHS England, Challenge Fund bid. Recognised the strong alignment and connectivity of the respective plans, including the strong links between the vision, strategic aims and the key priorities for 2014/15.	Ongoing financial challenges being experienced by the CCG, as a result of additional pressures and limited headroom to absorb unexpected financial variations and volatility.	Ongoing support being provided by the Area Team to assist the CCG with their ongoing financial challenges Continue the focus on the 62 Day cancer waiting times performance

			Acknowledged the ongoing challenges in meeting the cancer waiting times target, despite a number of measures being put in place to alleviate this.	
Does the CCG have robust governance arrangements?	Assured			
Are CCGs working in partnership with other?	Assured	<p>Joint commissioning with Durham CCGs ‘Rhetoric to Reality’ – shared ambition and plan for single commissioning function</p> <p>Closer working and evolving integration taking place with Darlington Borough Council</p>	<p>Significant importance attached to the planned NHS IQ improvement work with the Urgent Care Working Group to ensure a more robust approach to performance issues and joint working across the system.</p>	
Does the CCG have strong and robust leadership?	Assured		Recognised the particular leadership challenges in being ambitious in the context of the significant current and future financial challenges	