

USEFUL INFORMATION ABOUT The NHS Commissioning Board

Overview

Subject to the passage of the Health and Social Care Bill, the NHS Commissioning Board (NHS CB) will be established to play a vital role in providing national leadership for improving health outcomes and driving up quality of care. At its simplest, the purpose of the Board will be to work with clinical commissioning groups (CCGs) and the wider system to use the commissioning budget of around £80 billion a year to secure the provision of high-quality health services for patients and communities.

Location

The central headquarters of the NHS CB will be in Leeds and there will also be an office in London.

The Board will work at sub-national and local levels, with a single operating model, through sector and local teams. It is expected there will be 50 local offices and that four sector teams will be co-located with national or local offices.

Numbers of Staff

The establishment of the NHS CB allows a major opportunity to develop a brand new organisation that has the culture, style and leadership to truly improve outcomes for our patients. Achieving that vision will depend on those people who become part of the NHS CB team.

It is expected there will be an overall workforce of around 3,560, with:

- around 2,500 in the 50 local offices
- around 200 in the four sectors
- around 860 at the centre

This represents a potential reduction of almost half from the workforce currently responsible for the functions that are expected to be undertaken by the NHS CB. The Board will be an exemplar of the change it expects to see in CCGs: it will operate in as lean and flexible way as possible.

Organisational Design

- October 2011 - The NHS Commissioning Board Authority (NHS CBA) was established as a Special Health Authority
- October 2012 – Subject to the passage of the Health and Social Care Bill, the NHS Commissioning Board (NHS CB) will be established as an Executive Non-Departmental Body
- 1 April 2013 – Subject to the passage of the Health and Social Care Bill, Strategic Health Authorities and Primary Care Trusts will be abolished and the NHS CB will take on its full responsibilities.

Following a detailed and intensive design process over several months, including engagement with key stakeholders, recommendations for the organisational design and structure of the NHS CB will be considered at the NHS CBA public board meeting on 2 February 2012.

The recommendations are available on the NHS CB website at www.commissioningboard.nhs.uk and set out:

- Details of how the Board would operate through a matrix working approach
- Detailed recommendations on the design of each of the Board's nine directorates, including the sectors and local offices
- Next steps.

The proposed nine directorates of the NHS CB are as follows and we expect national director appointments to be made by the end of March:

- National Medical Director
- Chief Nursing Officer
- Chief Operating Officer
- National Director: Finance
- National Director: Commissioning Development
- National Director: Patient and Public Engagement, Insight and Informatics
- National Director: Improvement and Transformation
- National Director: Policy, Corporate Development and Partnership
- Chief of Staff.

Further transfer or recruitment of staff is expected to start in Spring 2012, dependent upon the passage of the Bill. Job descriptions will be developed in line with a phased recruitment process to the Board. Over the next few months, the NHS CBA will keep affected staff informed and engaged in the development of the Board.

Useful documents

'Developing the NHS Commissioning Board' - published in July 2011

<http://www.commissioningboard.nhs.uk/commissioningboard/files/2011/10/Developing-the-commissioning-board.pdf>

Phase 1 of the 'NHS CB People Transition Policy' (PTP) - also published in July 2011.

http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/documents/digitalasset/dh_129337.pdf

Phase 2 will be published after Royal Assent. The PTP is essential reading for anyone who believes their future employment will be in the NHS CB. It builds on local HR Frameworks and governs the appointment of staff into the NHS CB and has been developed in partnership with the Trade Unions.