

## Primary Care Commissioning Committee

1. **Date of Meeting:** 21<sup>st</sup> March 2019
2. **Title of Report:** Old Hall Surgery GMS Contract Procurement Report
3. **Key Messages:**
  - The purpose of this report is to update the Primary Care Commissioning Committee on developments in relation to the GMS contract for Old Hall Surgery, and to obtain agreement from the Committee to procure an APMS Contract for Old Hall Surgery.
  - Old Hall Surgery, in Ellesmere Port, has a patient population of 5,747.
  - A number of factors, including the resignation of one of the salaried GPs, led to the current partners handing back the contract for Old Hall Surgery on 15th October 2018.
  - The contract with the current partners was due to end on 15th April 2019, however, agreement has been obtained for the current partners to extend their contract until 31st August 2019.
  - There is now sufficient time to undertake a procurement for an APMS Contract at Old Hall Surgery.
  - An options appraisal was shared virtually, via email, with the Primary Care Commissioning Committee on 4th March.
4. **Recommendations** The Primary Care Commissioning Committee is asked to consider the contents of the report and support the recommended course of action regarding the procurement of an APMS Contract for Old Hall Surgery.
5. **Report Prepared By** Sarah Murray, Head of Primary Care

**NHS WEST CHESHIRE CLINICAL COMMISSIONING GROUP**  
**PRIMARY CARE COMMISSIONING COMMITTEE**  
**OLD HALL SURGERY APMS CONTRACT PROCUREMENT REPORT**

**PURPOSE**

1. The purpose of this report is to update the Primary Care Commissioning Committee on developments in relation to the GMS contract for Old Hall Surgery, and to obtain agreement from the Committee to procure an APMS Contract for Old Hall Surgery.

**Background and Timescales**

2. Old Hall Surgery, in Ellesmere Port, has a patient population of 5,747 (as at January 2019) and services are provided in a converted house in the centre of the town.
3. The practice had been a long established, stable and respected general practice with three long serving partners. However, in 2017, due to the retirement and resignation of the existing partners, the practice was faced with possible closure.
4. Eventually, after investigating a number of different solutions and none being found, five local GPs, who are partners in two practices in Ellesmere Port, came together in April 2017, to take over and maintain the GMS contract. This provided much needed stability and continuity for the patients and the practice staff.
5. The partnership had struggled to recruit GPs and was operating with locum cover. However, a period of stability followed with 4 Salaried GPs providing the 30 sessions required a week.
6. A number of factors, including the resignation of one of the salaried GPs, led to the current partners handing back the contract for Old Hall Surgery on 15 October 2018.
7. The contractual options were discussed with Ellesmere Port practices however there was no appetite to take on the contract for Old Hall Surgery, either as individual practices or collectively.
8. Following discussions with Ellesmere Port GP Partners the preferred option was to procure the Old Hall Surgery contract as an APMS contract, mainly to avoid destabilising the wider Ellesmere Port practices with the dispersal of 5,747 patients. This was backed up with an email from Simon Powell, as the LMC Representative for Ellesmere Port.
9. Therefore, in December work commenced on pulling together the necessary information required to inform a procurement and the procurement specialists were advised that their support would be required (subject to approval by the Primary Care Commissioning Committee).

10. At the clinical commissioning group meeting with the Local Medical Committee on 5th December, the clinical commissioning group advised the Local Medical Committee of the contractual situation at Old Hall. Both parties agreed that dispersal of the patients would be the least favourable course of action. The clinical commissioning group advised that preparatory work on the procurement process had commenced, including collation of the relevant information required to complete the service specification, and that should a more favourable option appear, then the tender process could be halted.
11. As there was no Primary Care Commissioning Committee planned for December, it was planned to request virtual approval from the Committee to commence a procurement process.
12. However, following internal discussions at Old Hall in early December, it was confirmed to the clinical commissioning group on 17th December 2018, that two of the current salaried GPs would like to take on the partnership. Arrangements were put in place for one of the existing, very experienced Partners to provide ongoing clinical leadership and supervision, as well as management expertise, to the new GP Partners for a year.
13. As a result, the procurement process did not progress and the appropriate contractual arrangements were put in place to ensure that the two new partners were able to join the existing contract on 1st April 2019.
14. The clinical commissioning group was then advised on 6th February 2019 that the Salaried GPs had withdrawn from taking on the contract.
15. The clinical commissioning group met with the partners of Old Hall Surgery on 12th February to explore whether they would be prepared to continue to provide a service for the interim period, whilst the contract was procured, however, unfortunately they felt unable to do this at that point.
16. Therefore, on 13th February the clinical commissioning group wrote to all practices in Cheshire and Mersey (as well as to other organisations known to deliver interim contracts) asking for expressions of interest to undertake the GMS contract on a 6 month interim basis.
17. No responses were received and feedback from one provider was that, due to the level of GP and nursing cover available after May, it would have been extremely difficult to deliver the contract to the required standard.
18. As a result, the clinical commissioning group explored the options available regarding this contract, these were to procure an APMS contract or to disperse the patient list.
19. An options appraisal was shared virtually, via email, with the Primary Care Commissioning Committee on 4th March.
20. The consensus reached was that, given the situation, the procurement of an APMS contract would be the preferred option, with the recognition that the existing Partners would need to agree to extend their contract to allow this to happen.

21. Following a negotiation with the current partners, which will involve a financial settlement of £15,000 a month, the partners confirmed on 6th March that they are able to extend their contract until 31st July 2019.
22. Therefore, there is a sufficient time period for the clinical commissioning group to procure an APMS contract for the Old Hall Surgery, if the Primary Care Commissioning Committee gives its approval.
23. The clinical commissioning group will then instruct North of England Commissioning Support Unit (NECS) to support the procurement at a cost of circa £25,000.
24. The advertisement will close on 10th May. There will be a mobilisation period of 11 weeks to the end of August. Evaluations will take place between 13th and 24th May. The new contract will commence 1st September 2019.
25. The Clinical Commissioning Group will know the level of interest to provide the contract by 10th May 2019. If there is no interest, the Primary Care Commissioning Committee will be asked to approve a managed dispersal of the patients of Old Hall Surgery.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

26. The Primary Care Commissioning Committee is asked to consider the contents of the report and support the recommended course of action regarding the procurement of an APMS Contract for Old Hall Surgery.