

Meeting of: Governing Body
Subject: Letter from GP members regarding Living Well
Author:
Lead Clinician:
Date of meeting: Tuesday 3rd May 2016
Requirement: Information/ Decision

1.0	Situation
	A letter has been received by NHS Kernow's Governing Body with regard to concerns regarding the future of Living Well and the apparent lack of commitment to its continued support.
2.0	Background
	The Living Well project has sought to utilise the wider community and community of organisations to support people to improve their health. Welfare and quality of life.
3.0	Assessment
	Locality GPs have written in support of the project and seek the support of the Governing Body for the longevity of the project.
4.0	Recommendations
	The Governing Body is recommended to discuss the content of the letter and consider any decisions required.

5.0	Details of stakeholder engagement, including quality and patient experience impact
	None apart from as described in the document.
6.0	Are there any equality and human rights implications?
	None apart from as described in the document.
7.0	Financial implications
	None apart from as described in the document.
8.0	Identify any risks or issues associated with this initiative
	None apart from as described in the document.

Dear Governing Body,

We are writing with concerns regarding the future of Living Well and the apparent lack of commitment to its continued support.

The Living Well approach aligns with the core visions and values of NHS Kernow, fits the aspirations of the '5 year forward view' and meets the 'triple aims' of improved patient care, improved experience of care and value for money for the organisation. Within Penwith Locality we have taken on the challenge of delivering this with enthusiasm and dedication. We have shown innovation in working with the voluntary sector, developed supportive communities, instigated MDT working in all GP practices, brought together front line practitioners to ensure system efficiencies and enhanced communication across health and social care networks, developed closer working with secondary care to facilitate early, safe discharges and led on public engagement with the Penwith Integrated Care Forum and meaningful lay representation at locality meetings. This has taken a huge amount of time, effort and commitment to achieve.

There has been close scrutiny on a wide variety of metrics to determine whether these interventions have created an impact on the triple aims, with particular focus on hospital admission rates and A&E attendances. The evidence base that has been developed would appear to demonstrate substantial reductions in all the key areas, more than any other intervention that we are aware of.

As an organisation NHS Kernow is heralding these achievements as one of its key success stories. The approach developed here is being taken around the country as a future model for commissioning. CCGs [such as x, y & z] have been sufficiently impressed by its impact and robustness of the evidence that they are commissioning it from within their own budgets. It is therefore with some frustration that we do not find the same level of support from our own CCG. We feel the current NHS Kernow plans to cobble together sufficient funds from a variety of sources to try and enable Living Well to get through to March 2017 demonstrates an inadequate level of commitment. We are yet to see any other plans that come close to delivering the same results, let alone anything that has already been well embedded.

It would be a tragedy to see the efforts of the past two years go to waste. There is no doubt that it would cause significant damage to the process of engagement from member practices within Penwith if this was allowed to happen. There would be a real risk of practice disengagement with future initiatives leading to concern over rising referral rates, A&E attendances and hospital admissions. We suspect the enthusiasm and dedication that has been demonstrated thus far would be difficult to maintain going forwards, and this could endanger the move towards integrated commissioning in the Penwith area.

We care passionately about the health of our communities. We understand the current financial climate. We feel it is therefore even more important that Living Well receives the support it needs to deliver the savings that are required for a sustainable financial future for NHS Kernow. We ask that sufficient funding is identified to secure the future of Living Well through a properly commissioned process.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Neil Walden (Chair) and locality lead GPs - Penwith