

Report to: **East Sussex Health and Wellbeing Board**

Date: **16 April 2013**

Title of report: **Clinical Commissioning Group Authorisation update**

By: **Amanda Philpott, Accountable Officer (Interim), Eastbourne, Hailsham and Seaford CCG/Chief Operating Officer, Eastbourne, Hailsham and Seaford and Hastings & Rother CCGs**

Purpose of report: **To provide the board with an authorisation update on the East Sussex Clinical Commissioning Groups**

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**RECOMMENDATION: The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to note the status of the East Sussex Clinical Commissioning Groups.**

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## **1. Background**

1.1 Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) were set up by the Health and Social Care Act 2012. From April 2013, they replaced the primary care trusts that previously commissioned healthcare services.

1.2 CCGs are now responsible for £65billion of the £95billion NHS commissioning budget. They are independent statutory bodies, led by their members: GP practices in their area. All 8000 practices in England are now members of a CCG.

## **2 Authorisation update**

2.1 The three East Sussex Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) - Hastings & Rother, Eastbourne, Hailsham and Seaford and High Weald Lewes Havens, have been authorised to take control of NHS commissioning budgets from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2013.

2.2 Hastings & Rother, and Eastbourne, Hailsham and Seaford CCG were among the third wave of CCGs to receive authorisation and High Weald Lewes Havens CCG received authorisation in the fourth and final wave.

2.3 High Weald Lewes Havens CCG and Eastbourne, Hailsham and Seaford CCG received authorisation with 'Secretary of State Directions' meaning the NHS Commissioning Board has been directed to oversee the development of their plans and provide them with support, and the CCGs have been directed to accept this support and oversight. The Directions relate to the development and sign-off of clear and credible plans, and the project management to ensure implementation of those delivery plans.

2.4 East Sussex has a history of significant financial challenge which has been recognised by the NHS Commissioning Board. The additional support from the NHS Commissioning Board over the next few months will help make sure that CCGs' plans are the best they can be, and that every effort is being made to ensure the needs of our population are being met within the available budget.

2.5 It is expected the support will come in the form of genuine hands on help: there are difficult decisions to make about how to balance the budgets and the CCGs need the very best people to assist them with that.

2.6 The CCGs are now responsible for planning, monitoring and buying the majority of NHS services for patients in East Sussex. The CCGs are expected to lead the transformation of the NHS in East Sussex, with a firm focus on putting the needs of patients at the heart their strategic goals.

2.7 All CCGs are chaired by local GPs, who also make up the majority of their Governing Bodies, which helps to ensure that clinical decision making is at the heart of CCG activity. As a statutory body, each CCG has an Accountable Officer (Amanda Philpott in EHS, Dr Greg Wilcox in H&R and Frank Sims in HWLH), nominated by the CCG and appointed by the NHS Commissioning Board, charged with ensuring that the CCG fulfils its duties and exercises its functions effectively, efficiently and economically.

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