

Greater Manchester Joint Commissioning Team
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Ref: RB/JF

24th March 2020

Dear colleague

As Chairs of the Joint Commissioning Board, (JCB) and Primary Care Board (PCB) respectively, we wanted to provide you with an update on the joint work we are doing to support the GM level Primary Care response to Covid-19.

The first thing to say is that we recognise that the majority of the effort and focus of the response to this crisis will rightly and appropriately be taking place across our 10 Localities, in our neighbourhoods and PCNs.

The GM level work will broadly tend to fall into the following categories:

- Co-ordination – for example, in overseeing the rollout of IT equipment, software and associated support arrangements, providing advice and guidance to Primary Care Providers
- Advocacy – ensuring that the voice of Primary Care is being heard, regionally and nationally, both in terms of policy development and practical issues, e.g. the provision of PPE

We will work together as joint clinical leaders of a GM level Primary Care workstream. This work is a collaboration between the JCB, the PCB and the GM Health and Social Care Partnership Team.

This workstream will report into the GM Out of Hospital Cell, chaired by Sarah Price, Interim Chief Officer of the GM Health and Social Care Partnership. For ease of reference, the functions of the Out of Hospital cell are set out below:

- to co ordinate the work of community services, mental health services and primary care and will work with social care in responding to COVID 19 emergency
- to work to planning assumptions, clinical policies and other instructions communicated through the Regional Incident Coordinating Centre In this context, the cell will be responsible for:
 - Creating capacity in community settings
 - Overseeing the management of hospital discharge process to achieve targets set

- Monitoring capacity pressures in community, with, primary care and social care
- Identifying problems and escalating to Regional Incident Director
- Supporting the SCG in particular their vulnerable people and shielding arrangements

We have asked Rob Bellingham, MD of the GM Joint Commissioning Team to provide us with management support to this work. As you might be aware, Rob is currently providing interim leadership to the GM Health and Care Partnership Primary Care Team, so there is a good level of connectivity provided via this approach.

We plan to issue more detailed communication on specific issues over the coming days and weeks but wanted to provide you with this more general update on our plans in the first instance.

We trust colleagues will be supportive of the proposals set out above and we will be in touch again later in the week with more information.

In the meantime, should you have any queries with regard to the above, please contact us via the email address: england.primarycarecomms@nhs.net

Yours sincerely



Dr Tom Tasker
Clinical Co-Chair
GM Joint Commissioning Board



Dr Tracey Vell
Chair
GM Primary Care Board