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NHS Somerset

Report to the NHS Somerset Integrated Care Board on 30 March 2023

Title: Delegation of Pharmacy, Optometry and Dental Services	**Enclosure F**

Version Number / Status:	1
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Summary and Purpose of Paper

Over the last 12 months, NHS Somerset ICB has been working with the regional team and fellow ICBs in the South West to take forward the delegation of pharmacy, optometry and dental services. All parties have agreed an operating model whereby a collaborative commissioning hub (comprising current NHSE staff) continue to undertakes these functions on behalf of the 7 ICBs. This collaborative work culminated in the completion of a safe delegation checklist, which was submitted to NHSE in February 2023. At the time it was recognised that not all items would be addressed fully by 31 March 2023 and further work would be required to ensure a smooth transition.

On 23 March 2023, Jonathan Higman, on behalf of NHS Somerset ICB, signed and submitted the attached nationally-produced delegation agreement, along with a locally-produced memorandum of understanding. The covering letter and current risk register for these services is also attached for your information. Following a more detailed review, the risks will be incorporated into the overall risk management approach for NHS Somerset.

Whilst much progress has been made in understanding the functions associated with delegation, we recognise that further work is still required and will be taken forward through the development and implementation of a transition workplan, which colleagues in NHS Somerset will play an active role in. The areas of priority for the transition plan are highlighted in the attached covering letter.

Recommendations and next steps

The Board is asked to note the signing of the delegation agreement and the further work required to ensure a smooth transition of the delegation of the functions associated with the commissioning of pharmacy, dental and optometry services. The Board is also asked to note the risks that have been identified in relation to these commissioning functions.

The Primary Care Commissioning Committee will continue to receive updates on the delegation of these services as well as receiving regular reports relating to the commissioning agenda.

Impact Assessments – key issues identified				
Equality	Not applicable			
Quality	A quality SOP has been developed and included within the memorandum of understanding.			
Safeguarding	The approach to safeguarding has been included as part of the local memorandum of understanding.			
Privacy	Not applicable			
Engagement	The transition work has been taken forward with colleagues across the 7 ICBs in the South West and the regional team. A communications plan will also be part of the transition.			
Financial / Resource	A finance SOP has been developed and included within the memorandum of understanding.			
Governance or Legal	The Primary Care Commissioning Committee terms of reference will be updated to reflect this change in accountability. Integrated Care Boards will be responsible for any legal costs associated with these functions. Discussions are ongoing about an appropriate transfer of funding.			
Sustainability	Not applicable.			
Risk Description	There is risk that NHS Somerset Integrated Care Board is unable to deliver obligations regarding delegated pharmacy, optometry and dental services post 04/23			
Risk Rating	Consequence	Likelihood	RAG Rating	GBAF Ref
	4	4	16	566