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Purpose of document

The Merton Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) is an organisation made up of local GP and health professionals. It was set up in 2013 as a result of changes made by the government for CCGs to take over responsibility from Primary Care Trusts for improving health and wellbeing, reducing inequalities, ensuring equal access to high quality healthcare services, and understanding the needs of the local population. They have been working together with local NHS services, Merton Council and the local community to achieve these aims, and have published a summary of the progress of their work so far from 2013-2014.

Summary of contents

The report describes the roles and responsibilities of the CCG and outlines the services that they commission. It lists the 8 priorities that were identified for 2013-2014 including long term conditions, urgent care, children and young people and stay healthy, and describes the progress for each priority. The report explains how the budget from the Department of Health is spent, and discusses what challenges they face. It also includes the CCGs aims for 2014-2016 with a plan developed for the next two years to address current challenges. The report shows how the CCG involves patients, carers and the public in their work, and the importance of patient feedback in planning and decision making.

Summary of outcomes

The CCG have chosen six priority areas to focus on as part of their plan for the next two years 2014-2016. They include older- and vulnerable adults, urgent care, mental health, children and maternity, early detection and management, and keeping healthy and well. The CCG does, and will continue to involve patients, carers and the public in their work by giving them a voice, and a chance to give feedback and influence the decisions that are made about healthcare services.

Summary of recommendations

The recommendations for further work that have been brought forward from feedback from patients, carers and the public include:

- Better, integrated health care, social care and community services.
- Improving the availability of information and resources about local services.
- Health promotion advice and support relating to lifestyle and exercise.
- Supporting the workforce to prepare for changes within the NHS.
- Making effective use of technology to improve access to GPs and hospital appointments.

Further information and resources

About health services in Merton and London

www.mertonccg.nhs.uk/Pages www.myhealth.london.nhs.uk/ccg/merton-ccg

Document summarised on behalf of Healthwatch Merton by: N Apprey-Abraham

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