

## **Norfolk and Waveney Eye Care Accreditation and Service Specification Feedback Brief**

### **1. In this pack you will receive:**

- This briefing sheet
  - Document A, [DRAFT] Ophthalmology Overarching Specification
  - Document B, [DRAFT] Ophthalmology Glaucoma and Ocular Hypertension (OHT) Subspeciality Service Specification
  - Document C [DRAFT] Proposed Norfolk and Waveney Glaucoma Service Pathway
  - Document D, [DRAFT] Ophthalmology Medical Retina Service Subspeciality Service Specification
- For information only:
- Document E, GIRFT AMD Pathway
  - Document F, GIRFT DMO Pathway
  - Eye Care Accreditation Feedback Questionnaire (**please complete and return electronically on the digital platform by Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2024 23:59**)

### **2. Context of Ophthalmology Patient Choice Provider Accreditation:**

#### **2.1 - Standing Rules and Patient Choice**

Patient Choice is underpinned by regulations called “The Standing Rules”: National Health Service Commissioning Board and Clinical Commissioning Groups (Responsibilities and Standing Rules) Regulations 2012.

All non-emergency consultant-led Eye Care Services are open to Patient Choice. Patients have a right to choose any provider with an existing NHS contract for all non-emergency consultant-led services.

#### **2.2 - Provider Selection Regime (PSR) and Direct Award Process B**

On 1 January 2024 the Provider Selection Regime (PSR) came into force. The PSR is a new set of rules for procuring health care services in England and was introduced by regulations made under the Health and Care Act 2022.

Where patients have a right to patient choice, the PSR has introduced a new provider selection process, called “Direct Award Process B”. The number of providers is not restricted.

#### **2.3. - Accreditation**

NHS England (NHSE) guidance states that Integrated Care Boards (ICBs) must establish transparent, and non-discriminatory accreditation criteria for a service, where the number of commissioned providers patients can choose from cannot be limited if criteria is met.

On this basis, if a consultant-led healthcare provider wishes to apply for an NHS contract to provide a service which complies with patient choice regulation, ICBs must provide accreditation criteria and must outline the process, within a reasonable timeframe. If the healthcare provider applies and meets the accreditation criteria for a service, they must be awarded an NHS contract for that service. The healthcare provider could be a hospital service or an Independent Sector Provider (ISP) within the community that is consultant-led.

Please note, an ICB cannot refuse to provide an accreditation process for patient choice pathways based upon the rationale of protecting sustainability of NHS services. NHS Trusts are expected to compete with ISPs to maintain market share.

The accompanying service specifications have been written to standardise care across Norfolk and Waveney. They will form the basis of accreditation criteria to be used when a provider applies to be awarded an NHS contract.

### **3. Instructions:**

As an ICB we are keen to receive feedback on any aspect of the proposed service specifications and pathways included within this pack. We are particularly interested in if you believe the proposed services are workable in practice, if you agree with the inclusion criteria and exclusion criteria for all potential providers (particularly for medical retina), and if you feel the proposed services meet the needs of the local population.

The overarching ophthalmology service specification (Document A) outlines the expectations for any consultant-led Eye Care service and must be read in conjunction with the relevant subspecialty service specifications (Document B & D).

The intention of Norfolk & Waveney ICB is to commission these services via provider accreditation in line with the Provider Selection Regime Direct Award B for both NHS and Independent Sector providers.

Record your feedback on the accompanying feedback questionnaire. Complete the sections where you wish to comment. Please provide feedback if you're able, as it is important to have your say as to how services are shaped and commissioned.

Submit your feedback by uploading onto the digital platform by Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2024 23:59.

Feedback is non-binding. However, once feedback has been received, it will be carefully considered, and documents may be amended to reflect comments made. Final documents will then be submitted to a senior committee within Norfolk & Waveney ICB to either be approved or further actions will be requested.

The responses received during the market assessment exercise will not be taken into account in any future evaluation process as part of the formal accreditation process. This is purely a market assessment exercise to inform the writing of accreditation criteria.

Thank you.