

## **WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT CLINICAL COMMISSIONING GROUPS (CCGs)**

### **What CCGs are:**

- They will be membership organisations of local GP practices
- They are to be 'rooted in the local communities'
- There are 211 across England  
<http://www.commissioningboard.nhs.uk/resources/ccg-maps/>
- They will come into being in April 2013 and are currently going through authorisation
- Some CCGs will use Commissioning Support Units to commission services

### **What CCGs are not:**

- They will not commission primary care - The NHS Commissioning Board will commission primary care (GPs, pharmacies, dentists etc.)
- Public Health will move into Local Authorities
- Health and Wellbeing Boards will include representation from the CCGs, the Local Authority, the Local Area Team member from the NHS Commissioning Board, to listen to what the local community needs

### **CCG Authorisation:**

They will need to demonstrate

- Quality and better outcomes
- Connected to communities
- A clear plan to improve things locally
- Capacity and capability to deliver their plan
- Collaboration and work well with others
- Leadership

### **Potential opportunities:**

- The new health system will need to work across the NHS, communities and social care to design services in a way that keeps people well and at home. The voluntary community sector (VCS) plays a central role in offering this.
- New health organisations will need to think differently about how they engage communities in the provision of services and recognise there is a role for the VCS in advocacy (to help build the picture) and as providers (solution services)

### **An example of CCG engagement with the VCS (Caron Morton from Shropshire CCG):**

- CCGs need to engage with the VCS to be authorised. The VCS can support them with many of the domains in the NHS Outcomes Framework such as supporting discharge from hospital; caring for people with long-term conditions; tackling social isolation; supporting people to use NHS services appropriately; and/or training on equality and diversity
- Shropshire has developed a memorandum of understanding with the local VCS about acceptable behaviour to support mutual understanding.

### **A VCS perspective and advice:**

- **What would CCG success look like?** A successful new system would be one where the CCGs and the VCS work well together; where vulnerable groups have a voice; co-designed services are effective; and services are accessible and high quality
- **The VCS working together** - work with your local voluntary service to get your voice heard. They could signpost CCGs and orgs to other VCS organisations as a way to tackle key health issues (eg social isolation).
- **Local HealthWatch** - VCS need to engage local HealthWatch and inform what it does
- **Network and make contact** – invite reps from new CCGs to any events you are already organising
- **What the VCS offers** - Read your local CCG strategic plan and their communications strategy to see how you can help meet their priorities
  - How can you support them deliver against QIPP (Quality, Innovation, Productivity, Prevention)
  - Contact your lay person on the CCG who may be responsible for communicating with groups / or know they best way for you to engage
  - Use your expertise and knowledge of the community to influence key documents such as Joint Strategic Needs Assessments (JSNAs). Some health and wellbeing boards are offering financial support to organisations input into JSNAs
- **Valuing the VCS** - CCGs have to consider promoting social sustainability
- **Public Services (Social Value) Act** – this complements current legislation which sets out what needs to be considered by those who have responsibility for commissioning and procuring (or buying) contracts for public services. Social value involves looking beyond the price of a contract for a particular service to consider what the collective benefit to the local community might be. Public bodies already consider value for money and the impact on the environment of the services they commission. Now they are required to consider the potential benefit to a community when they award contracts for services