

21 May 2015

STRICTLY EMBARGOED UNTIL 14.00 HOURS ON 21 MAY 2015

NHS ENGLAND ISSUES BEDFORDSHIRE CLINICAL COMMISSIONING GROUP WITH “DIRECTIONS”

NHS England has been working intensively with Bedfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group (BCCG) to better understand its financial position and why it has ended the 2014/15 financial year with a deficit of £43 million.

It is apparent that the reasons are complex and date back more than a year. It is essential that the people of Bedfordshire have confidence in the performance of BCCG and that it will continue to commission safe, sustainable health services now and in the future.

To ensure BCCG does so, NHS England (under its statutory name of the NHS Commissioning Board) has today formally issued it with “Directions”. The full Directions can be found by following this link:

<http://www.england.nhs.uk/commissioning/ccg-auth/key-docs/>

In summary BCCG is directed to:

- Produce a plan to improve its governance
- Produce a plan to improve its finances and put them on a sustainable footing
- Co-operate with NHS England in the delivery of its improvement plans
- Co-operate with NHS England over the appointment of anyone to its senior management team, including the Accountable Officer
- Provide information as requested by NHS England.

BCCG has done much good work around the quality and safety of services which patients receive. However, only if its finances and governance are on a sound footing can that continue. Today’s issuing of Directions by NHS England is a necessary intervention to ensure BCCG begins and maintains the process of recovery.

ENDS

Note to Editors

- NHS England is the body which leads the NHS in England. Its main aim is to improve the health outcomes for people in England, and it sets the overall direction and priorities for the NHS as a whole.
- For further information, please e-mail england.mediahub@nhs.net or ring 0113 825 3231.