Strategic Clinical Networks

Strategic Clinical Networks (SCNs) are non-statutory groups, which will be set up by the NHS Commissioning Board across England, to be operational from 1st April 2013 when the new NHS commissioning arrangements come into force.

They are designed to provide expert advice and resources to assist and advise commissioners and the NHS Commissioning Board in planning and delivering effective services for people in England.

SCNs will apply a whole-systems approach to improving the outcomes of people in areas of major healthcare challenge. There will be 4 SCNs covering Cancer, Cardiovascular Disease, Maternity and Children, and Mental Health, Dementia and Neurological Conditions. The SCNs are aligned with the NHS Outcomes Framework domains.

NHS South of England (West) has established a shadow SCN for mental health and dementia, ahead of 1st April 2013, in order to maintain focus and strategic leadership in this transitional period, and to continue to improve patient care.

Within this SCN there will be three sub groups, or Networks. However each Network will be closely linked in order to facilitate collaboration, joint working and the efficient use of resources.
Networks – Dementia; Mental Health

The Dementia Network, and the Mental Health Network of the SCN in the South West are now operational. Terms of reference, membership and workstreams for 2012-13 have been agreed.

The SW SCN and its Networks cover the geographical area mapped in diagram 1, below.

Until 31st March 2013 the shadow SCN will work with, and account to NHS South of England (West). This relationship will transition to the NHS Commissioning Board in 2013-14, whereupon the Terms of Reference will be reviewed.

From now until March 2013 the SCN - Dementia will support the following workstreams which have been agreed with the Strategic Health Authority (SHA):

- the diagnostic pathway and the role of primary care therein;
- care home leadership and workforce development;
- dementia friendly communities;
- mental health liaison services (joint programme with the SCN - Mental Health)

The Dementia Network will also oversee existing regional programmes including the dementia care in hospitals peer review (year 2), the Dementia Prevalence Calculator project, and work to improve diagnosis rates in the South West.

Membership

The Dementia Network includes stakeholders from the following sectors:

- primary care, particularly CCG leads
- specialist older person’s mental health services
- older person’s acute care social care commissioners
- voluntary sector providers
- representatives of the needs and views of people with dementia and their carers and families
- carers
- research networks
- post-graduate medical education

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1 Dorset, Bournemouth and Poole will be included within the South Central area.
The Network is chaired by Dr Nick Cartmell, a GP in Devon and GP lead for dementia at NHS South of England (West). He will represent the Network at the SCN alongside Kate Schneider, Programme Lead for Dementia at NHS South of England (West).

SCN Dementia, Mental Health Conference
6th December, Taunton

NHS South of England (West) and the shadow Strategic Clinical Network are pleased to announce a conference on 6th December 2012 for GP mental health and dementia commissioning leads in CCGs, commissioning support organisations, social care commissioners and other stakeholder groups. The conference will focus on priorities for the forthcoming year, and opportunities to drive improvements in the South West.

The conference will be by invitation. If you would like to apply to attend, please contact claire.shoring@southwest.nhs.uk

Contacts

For up to date information about the work of the Dementia Network please go to www.dementiapartnerships.org.uk.

To publicise any examples of positive practice in the South West, or to offer feedback on any technical or accuracy aspects of the content of this website please send an email to rowan@dementiapartnerships.org.uk.

To discuss any aspects of the work of the shadow SCN and Dementia Network, please contact the chair, Dr Nick Cartmell at nickcartmell@nhs.net; or contact Kate Schneider, Programme Lead, kate.schneider@southwest.nhs.uk.