

York Overview & Scrutiny Committee meeting on January 19th, 2011.

1. Provision of a community based Orthopaedics/Musculoskeletal Service

There are in excess of 200 musculoskeletal conditions affecting millions of people, including all forms of arthritis, pain and osteoporosis. It is estimated that up to 30% of all GP consultations are about complaints such as:

- Osteoarthritis
- Rheumatoid Arthritis
- Osteoporosis
- Fibromyalgia
- Neck pain
- Ligament injuries
- Chronic pain management
- Sprains and strains

At present orthopaedics, musculoskeletal, physiotherapy, podiatry and orthotic service provision is mainly provided for York and Selby registered patients by York Hospital Foundation Trust (YHFT) and Ramsey Health and NHS North Yorkshire and York Community and Mental Health Service.

Commissioners have decided to offer a contract to deliver a single Orthopaedic/MSK service in the community for the locality covering York and Selby. The service will cover triage, clinical assessment, and treatment via a single point of referral for GPs and patients themselves. The overall aims of the service are to:

- ✓ Ensure patients are offered the most appropriate treatment or management in the shortest possible time.
- ✓ Ensure patients are seen and treated as close to home as possible and in an environment most appropriate to their needs.
- ✓ Improve access to specialised services.
- ✓ Limit the physical and associated disabilities that are caused by orthopaedic/musculoskeletal conditions.
- ✓ Support General Practice by making available a new and effective pathway for patients with orthopaedic/musculoskeletal conditions
- ✓ Reduce pressure on secondary care services and enable waiting time targets to be met.

The following options will be available within the care pathway – all within a community setting:

- ✓ Physiotherapy
- ✓ Podiatry/Orthotics
- ✓ A physical and psychological approach to chronic pain
- ✓ Diagnosis and treatment by clinical professionals
- ✓ Referral to diagnostics

- ✓ Referral back to GPs with advice re treatment in general practice
- ✓ Referral to secondary care services (subject to choice)

This service, following an extensive tendering process, is expected to start in May 2011 and will be available to approximately 300,000 registered patients within the Practice Based Commissioning consortia of York Health Group and Selby Commissioning Group. The final model is expected to be very similar to that shown in Fig.1.

Once implemented this service will be expected to achieve the following outcomes:

- ✓ Improve the clinical outcomes for patients.
- ✓ Transfer activity from an acute hospital setting to the community.
- ✓ Improve the clinical pathway by developing joint working between primary and secondary care providers and clinicians.
- ✓ Reduce health inequalities by improving access to the service.
- ✓ Improvement in patient and referrer experience.
- ✓ Help to reduce long term disability.
- ✓ Demonstrate an improvement in conversion rates for patients requiring intervention within an acute setting.
- ✓ Achievement of 18 week targets for all referrals relevant to the service;
- ✓ Achieve maximum waiting time of 4 weeks from GP referral to assessment, and commencement of treatment.

Fig 1.

