

NHS Wirral Clinical Commissioning Group
Old Market House
Hamilton Street
Birkenhead
Wirral
CH41 5AL
Tel: 0151 651 0011

Re: Freedom of Information Request

Thank you for your request for information made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 which was received into this office on 17th October 2016.

You asked for information on Virgin Care:

1. Is it wise to continue to award Wirral CCG contracts to a partnership tied so closely to a company in such an apparently unstable financial position?

CCG health service contracts which are subject to competition, as defined by the public contract regulations 2015, will be let following a full and robust procurement process. Financial stability will form part of the consideration when letting contracts, proportionately to the risks associated with performing a given service.

2. Are you happy that a substantial number of our local GPs who also comprise a majority of a local GP Federation continue to collaborate with a company in this position and with a most unenviable public reputation?

The CCG would not be able to take a view on how local GPs decide to form a provider federation.

3. What is your response to the claims made locally that Virgin and its allies are willing to continue to sustain losses because they know that, when the STP closes more hospital and community health services, they could fall into the waiting hands of contractors like Virgin/Peninsula?

The CCG has no evidence of this approach.

4. Who would (and how much would it cost to) pick up the pieces should Virgin Care pull out of its Peninsula partnership for whatever reason?

The CCG cannot comment on Virgin Care's business decisions. However, as part of each contract the CCG manages, it ensures each provider has a business continuity plan in place. Business continuity plans detail steps and processes to take when elements of a business fails. Peninsula do not have any exclusive contracts with the CCG as they operate under an any qualified provider framework arrangement, along with other private and NHS providers, to facilitate patient choice. If Peninsula were to fail, we would work with our other incumbent providers to ensure adequate capacity was available within the system to minimise any disruption to patient care.

5. Although on previous occasions neither the CCG or Peninsula Health have been willing to provide substantial evidence I feel that , given the current perilous state of our health services, I need to ask again in relation to claims made publicly by Virgin Care:
- Just how is the Peninsula/Virgin arrangement cheaper?
 - Where are the 'savings' and how are they achieved?
 - How much are these savings in pounds per annum?
 - What is more 'conveniently located' for Wirral residents about a building in Birkenhead?
 - What is the size of the claimed Peninsula 'surplus'?
 - Where and how is it generated?
 - How is it/will it be spent?

We apologise, but we are not responsible for comments made by Virgin Care on their website and are therefore unable to comment.

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