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Our Ref: ID1269

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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 6th November 2018.

You Asked for:

In 2015 Wirral CCG and Wirral Council were amongst the partners securing a successful bid for a 'Vanguard' project.

Other partners included:

- Cerner UK Ltd (described as "cornerstone partner in the delivery of informatics solutions and promotion population health management"); and
- Advocate Physician Partners ACO, (USA) (described as "cornerstone partner in the delivery of modelled Accountable Care Organisation deployment and learning").

Please answer the following questions:

1. What does "cornerstone" mean in this context?
2. Since the inception of the project how many meetings have taken place between the partners? Which individuals took part in these meetings, where did they take place and at what cost?
3. How much money has the project cost to date? How much of the budget has been or will be paid to the external partners? How much has been or will be spent on trips to or from the USA?
4. In what ways has the project "leverage[d] the existing partnership arrangements Cerner have with Advocate Physician Partners (APP)"?
5. The project intended to "seek learnings [sic] and advisory support for successfully setting up and managing our new care model". What "learnings" have taken place and how have they been applied in new care models?
6. What is this 'new care model'? Why was it necessary to "catalyse a new model of integrated care" and what exactly does that mean?

7. Why did the partners choose to develop this work rather than simply use the model “that is already being piloted through our ‘Vision 2018’ health economy collaboration programme”?
8. What have been the outcomes and outputs from the project’s:
 - “technology enabled population health model”;
 - the “testing of a capitated [sic] budget approach for target population segments across primary and acute care, [but] with support from mental health and community providers”; and
 - “the dual focus of reducing health inequalities while achieving costs savings through [sic] and reduced inefficiency and duplication.”?
9. Before the project was conceived and developed what public and professional consultations took place about the notion of integrated health and social care, and about this particular model, AND about the suitability of the specific partners who were awarded the contract?
10. Who were the “GPs [who] have been engaged and have expressed strong commitment to advance their current work in integrated care by developing and implementing this plan.”?
11. Cerner does have a long standing relationship with WUTH but was any thought given to previous controversy including <http://ukcampaign4change.com/2013/09/26/hospital-chiefs-plan-high-risk-go-live-in-secret/>?
12. Why did Wirral Council and Wirral CCG grant entry to our local health services to major US and/or US-owned corporations, especially one representing the ACO model? Was it because a decision had already been made to create an ACO in Wirral?
13. What have been the results, outcomes and outputs from “testing of a capitated budget approach”?
14. What contribution to the project has been made by the King’s Fund?

Our response

The original Vanguard bid was put together and led by Wirral University Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust (WUTH) and therefore any questions of specific wording and interpretation in the bid should be addressed to them. I have provided their contact details below for your convenience.

wih-tr.accesstoinformationoffice@nhs.net

The Vanguard programme ceased after a short period when funding was discontinued. Therefore, the CCG is not in a position to comment on a programme that has not been running since early 2016.

We hope this information is useful, however if you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact a member of the Corporate Affairs Team (contact details at the top of this letter)

Yours sincerely

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