



Update for Central Region DHB CEOs and Boards - April 2009

Introduction

Momentum is building with RCSP implementation activities. Expressions of interest for the Clinical Leadership Group have been sought. A communications plan has been developed and the first step of the vulnerable services project is well underway.

Clinical Leadership Group

Following a feedback process the steering group reconsidered the terms of reference. Membership will include leaders of existing clinical networks, practising clinicians from a range of professional groups across the continuum and CMOs and DoNs as ex-officio members.

An expressions of interest process has been initiated which will be run through the executive groups. It is hoped that the inaugural meeting will be in May.

Communications and stakeholder engagement

A draft communications plan has been developed. This builds on the approach used during the development of the plan whilst acknowledging that future communications requirements will be different for an ongoing and wider programme of work. Communication activities needs to incorporate the increased complexity under the RCSP umbrella; existing regional programmes (e.g. regional credentialling, cardiology, renal and plastic services clinical networks) as well as implementation planning work (e.g. vulnerable services). However, it also presents an opportunity to streamline communications.

A communications steering group comprising DHB communications managers, RCSP steering group lead and TAS will lead the next stage which is development of communications tools and implementing the plan.

A brief RCSP summary document suitable for use in District Strategic Planning processes will be developed.

The RCSP implementation work programme

Vulnerable services

A group of senior DHB clinicians and managers from across the region came together in late March to progress the vulnerable services project. This project will inform regional planning and give a regional view of vulnerable services – the first step is identification and phase two will be developing regional risk management plans to respond to this. Whilst information will be collected at an individual DHB level, services will be assessed through a regional lens e.g. overall a service may be sustainable across the region but there may be some areas within it where there are issues that need addressing. An important point is that services cannot be viewed independently of their context e.g. the systems that support it and linkages with other services.

Good progress has been made, a draft definition and criteria have been developed and work is concentrating now on a questionnaire that will collect information from DHBs in a consistent way.

The Ministry of Health Work has also written to CEOs early March asking for work on vulnerable services to be completed by the end of April. We have negotiated a longer timeframe to fit in with the regional project which takes a more thorough and longer term view of vulnerable services.

Timelines for extending this work to primary care and the community will be determined by a newly formed primary focus group.



RCSP clinical networks

Following service reviews completed in earlier years the below regional networks have progressed to practical implementation and clinical networks have now been established with accompanying work programmes. The Plastic Services Network was first to form in 2006 followed by Cardiology and Renal in the first half of 2008. Future updates to CEOs and Boards will include some of the headline work happening in the clinical networks.

Cardiology

One of the highest priorities identified in the cardiology services review was the cardiac technician's workforce where shortages and training issues were causing problems with access to cardiac diagnostic procedures such as echocardiograms. A project to address this has resulted in obtaining funding for 11 cardiac technologist trainee positions (through the Clinical Training Agency) and establishing a regional training coordinator position. This has translated into better outcomes for patients with improved numbers of echocardiograms performed and waiting list reductions in some DHBs already. A regional approach allows for resources to support service initiatives to be shared more efficiently by DHBs. There are a number of other service development projects such as expanding the pre-hospital thrombolysis service (expected to decrease the mortality following a heart attack for some patients living in rural areas). This and other work will be described more fully in future updates.

Renal

Project teams were established in the last quarter of 2008. The five areas of current project work are; Transplantation, Regional IT System, Support for Patients and Families, Service Models and Workforce and Integrated Care Strategy. Work on the Integrated Care Strategy is progressing well and a discussion paper with recommendations will be considered by the Central Region Renal Network (CRRN) in May. This work aims to improve the prediction and prevention of chronic kidney disease by linking renal services more closely with community health providers.

Plastic Surgery

A business case was developed aimed at addressing the backlog of women for delayed-reconstructive breast surgery. The business case has been supported which means that surgery for the highest priority group of women will be progressed from July. A comprehensive approach to this issue was taken and a sustainable model of plastic surgery services is being developed in consultation with the region to support ongoing patient need.

Costing the RCSP

The MoH are sponsoring a project aimed at understanding the financial implications of the proposed service configuration options in the RCSP. The RCSP steering group have reviewed the proposal and a representative will join the project steering group. The project has a planned end date of September 2009.

Key Contacts

Project Sponsor:	Murray Georgel, CEO, MidCentral DHB
Steering Group Chair:	Bridget Allan, GM Planning & Funding, Hutt Valley DHB
Project Director:	Mike Grant, GM Funding Division, MidCentral DHB
Programme Manager:	Andrew Campbell-Stokes, TAS

More information on the RCSP can be found on the project website: www.rcsp.org.nz