

Continuing Care – Essex Nursing Homes



Background

More than 50 organisations provide residential nursing care throughout Essex, so putting together a framework to enable commissioners in the county to access the best quality of care at cost effective prices was always going to be a complex undertaking.

With the support of the Hub, the five Essex PCTs and Essex County Council collaborated to develop a framework to help standardise continuing care provision across Essex and streamline patient transition between health care and social care.

Around £40 million per year is spent on nursing home services in Essex and it was widely recognised by the PCTs and the County Council that there would be a number of commercial advantages in working collaboratively.

The agreement to work together was recognition of the many synergies which exist between the different organisations. As a result, a framework was developed to enable commissioners to pool resources and share information to better manage and incentivise quality and performance among providers.

Role of the Collaborative Procurement Hub

The Hub project managed the development of the framework on behalf of the PCT commissioners, providing procurement advice as well as ensuring the requirements and aims of the NHS were core to the development of the framework agreement. The Hub also represented the PCTs on the project board and effectively acted as the liaison point between the PCTs and the County Council.

Outcomes

The project, which was a finalist in the 'You Make a Difference in Essex' Awards 2010, is expected to deliver significant healthcare service improvements and provide a valuable shared learning experience for other PCTs who may be interested in linking up with their local councils on similar projects in future.

For further information contact

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