



Leicester City Clinical Commissioning Group

For immediate release

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Extra funding for city health checks

Extra funding is being made available in Leicester over the next two years to increase the number of patients being offered a free Health Check at GP practices across the city.

Leicester City Clinical Commissioning Group (LC CCG) will continue to fund Health Checks for the next two years, in addition to 2011/12, and will be targeting around £500,000 of additional transformational funding to help boost the number of people being screened and treated for heart disease, stroke, diabetes and kidney disease between the ages of 40 and 74.

Currently GP practices offer NHS Health Checks through a Local Enhanced Service (LES) to banded age groups, with those in the higher risk groups* invited for screening first. The CCG's increase in funding aims to open up the checks to all eligible patients and to include treatment of key risk factors such as diabetes and hypertension when these are detected.

Professor Azhar Farooqi, co-chair of the LC CCG, said: "Leicester has high rates of premature cardiovascular deaths and double the national prevalence of diabetes, which means Health Checks are an important way of preventing premature death and disease in the city.

"By screening and treating more people sooner at City practices, we will be helping to identify patients who have risk factors for conditions such as heart disease and diabetes. Often these risk factors – high blood pressure, cholesterol and blood glucose levels – are 'silent' and people are unaware that they are at high risk."

The CCG will also be working with practices across the city to increase their allocations for the number of patients invited to and receiving Health Checks, as well as helping them to offer more opportunistic screening to their patients.

Practices will also be given the option of offering Health Checks on behalf of non-participating practices under a Collective LES agreement.

ENDS

Professor Azhar Farooqi, co-chair of the LC CCG, is available for interview. Please contact senior media officer Caroline Higgs on 0116 295 7663 or

caroline.higgs@lcr.nhs.uk or media officer Liz Thomas on 0116 295 4123 or liz.thomas@leicestercity.nhs.uk

Notes to editors:

Leicester City Clinical Commissioning Group was formed earlier this year as part of the changes proposed to the NHS under the Health and Social Care bill. Clinical Commissioning Groups were formerly known as GP consortia. Leicester City CCG represents 65 GP practices and serves a patient population of 360,000 patients.

In 2010/11 GP practices in Leicester City offered a health check to 73.8% of those eligible, which was taken up by 70% of patients.

*Priority groups

- Group 1 (high risk) Patients over the age of 55
Risk score equal to or greater than 20% of an event in the next 10 years
Who do not have a diagnosis of CVD or diabetes

- Group 2 (high risk) Patients between the ages of 40-55
Risk score equal to or greater than 20% of an event in the next 10 years
Who do not have a diagnosis of CVD or diabetes

- Group 3 (low risk) Patients between the ages of 40-74
No risk score recorded due to insufficient data for calculation
Who do not have a diagnosis of CVD or diabetes

- Group 4 (low risk) Patients between the ages of 40-74
Risk score less than 20% of an event in the next 10 years
Who do not have a diagnosis of CVD or diabetes