

## ICB Extraordinary Primary Care Commissioning Committee

<b>Date of meeting</b>	25 November 2024
<b>Title of paper</b>	Special Allocation Scheme Contract Extension
<b>Presented by</b>	Peter Tinson, Director of Primary & Community Care
<b>Author</b>	Sarah Danson, Senior Delivery Assurance Manager
<b>Agenda item</b>	5
<b>Confidential</b>	No

### Executive summary

The Special Allocation Scheme (SAS) is provided on a Lancashire and South Cumbria basis by Compass Medical Practice which is part of Fylde Coast Medical Services (FCMS). There is currently a contract in place until 30 November 2024.

To ensure continued access to primary medical services for patients currently allocated to the Special Allocation Scheme, a paper was submitted to Primary Care Commissioning Committee on 29th August 2024 to decide the best option to secure ongoing service provision for these patients.

Primary Care Commissioning Committee (PCCC) agreed to the recommendation to undertake a Most Suitable Provider Process under the Provider Selection Regime to award a contract for a period of 3 years plus the option of a 2-year extension at the discretion of the ICB. This was subject to further assurances in relation to value for money and the staffing model.

The provision of these assurances has impacted on the timeline to undertake the Most Suitable Provider Process and would result in the required standstill period exceeding the current contract expiry date (30th November 2024). NECS have identified options available to the ICB which are detailed in this paper to maintain continuity of service provision in the interim period whilst a Most Suitable Provider process is completed by 31 May 2025. This will provide sufficient time to complete the process and ensure that if there are any challenges from other interested providers these can be reviewed and responded to during the allotted time period.

This paper requests that PCCC approves a short-term contract or contract modification in line with the Provider Selection Regime (PSR) 2023 to the current provider (FCMS) for a period of 6 months from 30th November 2024 to 31st May 2025. This will ensure that there is sufficient time to complete the Most Suitable Provider Process. This is considered to be low risk.

### Advise, Assure or Alert

To advise the committee of arrangements currently in place to provide primary care services for patients who have been allocated to the Special Allocation Scheme.

To assure the Primary Care Commissioning Committee of the arrangements for progressing the Most Suitable Provider Process.

### Recommendations

The committee is requested to:

- Note the assurances regarding value for money considerations and the staffing model.
- Approve a short-term contract or contract modification in line with the Provider Selection Regime (PSR) 2023 to the current provider (FCMS) for a period of 6 months from 30th November 2024 to 31st May 2025.
- Note that either of the above would be out with the PSR regulations but are considered to low risk in recognition of the market interest and the process underway to secure a provider.

### Which Strategic Objective/s does the report contribute to

Tick

1	Improve quality, including safety, clinical outcomes, and patient experience	✓
2	To equalise opportunities and clinical outcomes across the area	✓
3	Make working in Lancashire and South Cumbria an attractive and desirable option for existing and potential employees	✓
4	Meet financial targets and deliver improved productivity	✓
5	Meet national and locally determined performance standards and targets	✓
6	To develop and implement ambitious, deliverable strategies	✓

### Implications

	Yes	No	N/A	Comments
Associated risks	✓			As detailed within the report.
Are associated risks detailed on the ICB Risk Register?	✓			
Financial Implications			✓	

### Where paper has been discussed (list other committees/forums that have discussed this paper)

Meeting	Date	Outcomes
Primary Medical Services Group	13.11.2024	Verbal updated provided and noted.

### Conflicts of interest associated with this report

Not applicable

### Impact assessments

	Yes	No	N/A	Comments
Quality impact assessment completed			✓	
Equality impact assessment completed			✓	
Data privacy impact assessment completed			✓	No changes to service

### Report authorised by:

Craig Harris - Chief Operating Officer

# ICB Extraordinary Primary Care Commissioning Committee

25 November 2024

---

## Special Allocation Scheme Contract

### 1. Introduction

- 1.1. The Special Allocation Scheme (SAS) is provided on a Lancashire and South Cumbria basis by Compass Medical Practice which is part of Fylde Coast Medical Services (FCMS).
- 1.2. There is currently a contract in place until 30 November 2024.

### 2. Background

- 2.1 Provision for the SAS is set out in the General Medical Services (GMS) and Personal Medical Services (PMS) Regulations.
- 2.2 The SAS was first introduced as a Directed Enhanced Service (DES) in 2004 to provide general primary medical care services in a secure environment to patients who met the criteria for inclusion on the scheme.
- 2.3 The SAS allows commissioners to balance the rights of patients to receive services from GPs, with the need to ensure that specified persons including GPs, their staff, patients and others on the premises deliver and receive those services without actual or threatened violence or other reasonable fear for their safety.
- 2.4 The contract with the current provider commenced on 1st June 2017. This contract was initially for a period of 5 years and contained a provision for a one-year extension until 31st May 2023.
- 2.5 The current service model also includes those patients who may not have been violent, but who cannot maintain a relationship with GP practice. These patients were previously under a 'Difficult to Doctor' Local Enhanced Service (LES) and often exhibit behaviour which makes caring for them extremely difficult, sometimes with diagnosed and undiagnosed mental health conditions.
- 2.6 Compass Medical Practice currently serves approximately 338 patients and operates to a specification that requires the practice to provide services within a 10-mile radius of a patient's home address. This is delivered either through agreements with local practices for access to rooms within practice buildings, or from the practice's mobile clinic.

- 2.7 Following a market engagement exercise, a direct award was agreed at a meeting of Primary Care Contracting Group on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023 to the incumbent provider for a further year until 31<sup>st</sup> May 2024.
- 2.8 Subsequently at a meeting of the Primary Care Commissioning Committee on 14 March 2024 this was varied for a further period of six months from 1st June 2024 to 30th November 2024.
- 2.9 On 29<sup>th</sup> August 2024 the Primary Care Commissioning Committee considered the best option to secure ongoing service provision and approved the recommendation to undertake a Most Suitable Provider Process under the Provider Selection Regime to award a contract for a period of 3 years plus the option of a 2-year extension at the discretion of the ICB. This was subject to further assurances in relation to value for money and the staffing model.

### **3. Update**

- 3.1 FCMS has provided on an open book basis detailed financial information regarding pay and non-pay costs. These have been reviewed by the Associate Director of Finance (Primary Care) who has confirmed that they represent value for money.
- 3.2 Similarly, FCMS has provided the detailed staffing model and associated patient activity information. This has been reviewed by the Associate Medical Director (Primary Care) who has confirmed that the model is robust.
- 3.3 The provision and consideration of these assurances has impacted on the timeline to undertake the Most Suitable Provider Process and would result in the required standstill period exceeding the current contract expiry date (30th November 2024).
- 3.4 NECS have identified options available to the ICB to maintain continuity of service provision in the interim period whilst a Most Suitable Provider process is completed by 31<sup>st</sup> May 2025:
  - Undertaking a second Urgent Award for the current provider (FCMS) for a period of 6 months in line with Health Care Services (Provider Selection Regime) Regulations 2023 which whilst out with the regulations has been advised by procurement experts as low risk considering the market interest from only the incumbent provider, procurement process actively underway, and more importantly the requirement to ensure continued service provision for this vulnerable group of patients.

OR

- A contract modification of the existing contract for the current provider (FCMS) for a further period of 6 months in line with Health Care Services (Provider Selection Regime) Regulations 2023 which whilst out with the regulations has

been advised by procurement experts as low risk considering the market interest from only the incumbent provider, procurement process actively underway, and more importantly the requirement to ensure continued service provision for this vulnerable group of patients.

NECS have advised the ICB that either of the proposed options will provide sufficient time to complete the MSP process and ensure that if there are any challenges from other interested providers these can be reviewed and responded to during the allotted time period.

#### **4. Recommendations**

4.1 The committee is requested to:

- Note the assurances regarding value for money considerations and the staffing model.
- Approve a short-term contract or contract modification in line with the Provider Selection Regime (PSR) 2023 to the current provider (FCMS) for a period of 6 months from 30th November 2024 to 31st May 2025.
- Note that either of the above would be out with the PSR regulations but are considered to low risk in recognition of the market interest and the process underway to secure a provider.

**Sarah Danson**

**Senior Delivery Assurance Manager**

**October 2024**