

## **PCT World Class Commissioning assurance results 2009/10**

### **1. Introduction**

The Department of Health introduced a commissioning assurance in 2008/9 as part of the wider World Class Commissioning (WCC) programme in England.

Commissioning assurance was an annual process which reviewed primary care trusts (PCTs) progress towards achieving better health outcomes for their populations and provides a common basis for agreeing further development. The aim was to drive performance and development, and reward PCTs as they move towards becoming world class commissioners.

There was a national system of commissioning assurance, locally managed by strategic health authorities (SHAs). Commissioning assurance was designed to help PCTs identify areas of development and move towards filling gaps in their capabilities.

The results from the first year's (2008/9) WCC assurance process were published by PCTs in March 2009. The majority (146 out of 152) of the World Class Commissioning panel reports for PCTs for year 2 (2009/10) have now been published.

This report presents an initial assessment of these results at a national level, with analysis of changes in PCT performance over the last year.

### **2. World Class Commissioning assurance reports**

Each PCT in England has been presented with a WCC panel report assessing PCT's strengths and weaknesses. The reports set out:

- Main areas for consideration by the PCT
- An assessment of the governance ratings
- An assessment of the competency ratings
- Measurement of performance on key outcomes
- Commentary on the PCT's potential for improvement

This analysis focuses on the quantitative elements of the reports in relation to governance and competency ratings. It should be noted however that each PCT report gives a much richer analysis.

There were some changes to the assessment system between year's one and two. Overall this made the system somewhat more challenging in year two, so the assessment of improvement between the two years will somewhat underestimate the actual improvements achieved. There was also one extra competency – ensuring efficiency and effectiveness of spend - assessed in year two.

### 3. PCT Governance ratings

PCTs were given rating on governance reflecting the underlying grip which the board and the organisation have on their core business. The rating is on a red/amber/green basis against three components of governance:

- Strategy
- Finance
- Board

The ratings were similar for year one and year two, although the tests on strategy in particular were tougher in year two. Table One shows the results for both years.

	<b>Strategy</b>		<b>Finance</b>		<b>Board</b>	
	<b>2008/09</b>	<b>2009/10 #</b>	<b>2008/09</b>	<b>2009/10 #</b>	<b>2008/09</b>	<b>2009/10 #</b>
<b>Green</b>	29.6%	31.5%	40.1%	42.5%	46.7%	62.3%
<b>Amber</b>	59.2%	63.7%	51.3%	48.6%	51.3%	37.0%
<b>Red</b>	11.2%	4.8%	8.6%	8.9%	2.0%	0.7%

# for 146 out of 152 PCTs whose results were available on 4 August 2010

The PCT performance on governance improved overall between year one and year two. In particular the assessment of the board showed a significant improvement with 62% of boards rated green in year two, up from 47% in year one.

Strategy ratings also improved with red rated PCTs falling to 5% in year two, against 11% in year one, despite a tougher assessment standard.

Finance ratings improved least, with a marginal increase in the number of green rated PCTs, but also a marginal increase in the number of red rated PCTs.

The percentage of PCTs which gained three green ratings rose from 17.8% in year one to 22.6% in year two. The number of PCTs with three red ratings fell from 2 in year one to nil in year two (for those PCTs which have published to date).

### 4. PCT Competency ratings

In year two of the WCC assurance system, PCTs were assessed against 11 commissioning competencies, with one additional competency added since year one of the system.

Each competency is made up of three components. PCTs are rated on a scale of 1 (entry level) to 4 (world class) on each of these components which are averaged to give a single overall score between 1 – 4 for each competency.

Table two sets out the national results for PCTs across England for year one and year two on each of the competencies.

<b>Table Two</b>			
<b>Competency</b>	<b>England #</b>		<b>% change</b>
	2008/09	2009/10	
1. Locally lead the NHS	1.97	2.62	+33%
2. Work with community partners	2.11	2.65	+26%
3. Engage with public and patients	1.66	2.36	+42%
4. Collaborate with clinicians	1.75	2.37	+35%
5. Manage knowledge	1.67	2.59	+55%
6. Prioritise investment	1.41	1.81	+28%
7. Stimulate market	1.15	1.82	+58%
8. Promote improvement	1.65	2.24	+36%
9. Secure procurement skills	1.35	1.98	+47%
10. Manage local health system	1.67	2.32	+39%
11. Efficiency and effectiveness of spend	N/A	1.39	N/A
<b>Average (competency 1-10)</b>	<b>1.64</b>	<b>2.28</b>	<b>+39%</b>

# for 147 out of 152 PCTs whose results were available on 4 August 2010  
 London PCT scores are for the combined PCT/Sector performance  
 One PCT has published competency but not governance scores

This shows a significant overall improvement in performance for PCTs across the country, with a 39% improvement in score on average across the competencies which were assessed in both years.

PCTs significantly improved performance on all competencies, with the greatest improvement in competency 7 (stimulate the market) and competency 5 (manage knowledge and assess need). Generally PCTs improved fastest in the competencies in which they performed least well in year one.

PCTs performed best in year two on competency 2 (work with community partners) and competency 1 (locally lead the NHS). These were also the best performing competencies in year one.

The lowest scoring competencies in year two were competency 11 (efficiency and effectiveness of spend – which was not assessed in year one) and competency 6 (prioritise investment of all spend).

A number of PCTs were rated at level 4 (or world class) for elements of the competency assessment the first in time in year two.

## **5. Conclusions**

The World Class Commissioning assurance results for 2009/10 show a significant improvement in performance in PCTs across England from the previous year.

The results demonstrate an improvement in both governance of PCTs and in the competencies demonstrated by the organisations. A number of PCTs were starting to demonstrate genuinely world class performance in a number of elements of the commissioning process, although no PCT yet demonstrated this level performance in the every element of commissioning

Although this report does not analyse the outcomes achieved by PCTs, the individual reports do generally show that the improvements in governance and competency were starting to deliver results for local people on the priorities identified by the PCT.

This will be the last year of the WCC system as we now move towards a new commissioning system as set out the White Paper *Equity and excellence: Liberating the NHS*. This will see the establishment of GP commissioning consortia and a national NHS Commissioning Board, an extended role for local government and the abolition of PCTs and SHAs.

However, the WCC results should not simply be seen as an interesting historical record. The competencies set out in the WCC framework remain relevant to the new system of commissioning. This does not mean that each GP commissioning consortium will need to have all these competencies nor that we would expect them to go through a fully fledged WCC style assurance process. But the overall system will need to be able to deliver the full range of commissioning functions.

In the transition to the new system it will be important to ensure that we retain the skills and competencies which have been demonstrated in most PCTs across the country.

**4 August 2010**