

## **PRIMARY CARE TRUST CONSULTATION**

**EXECUTIVE MEMBER:** Cllr G Blackwell  
**LEAD OFFICER:** Keith Parker – Head of Leisure and Environmental Services  
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**Summary:** This report informs Council of the options contained within the consultation document on “New Primary Care Trusts Arrangements for the Cumbria and Lancashire SHA Area”.

<b>Recommendation:</b>	That Full Council supports options 2 as the preferred structure for Primary Care Trust delivery in Cumbria.
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**Impact on delivering the Corporate Plan:** The Corporate Plan enshrines the principle that the residents of Copeland should have access to high quality health care services

**Impact on other statutory objectives (e.g. crime & disorder, LA21):**

**Financial and human resource implications:** Nil

**Project & Risk Management:** None

### **Key Decision Status**

- **Financial:** None  
- **Ward:** None

**Other Ward Implications:** None

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

1.1 The Cumbria and Lancashire Strategic Health Authority have recently issued a consultation document in response to the Department of Health’s publication of “Commissioning a Patient-Led NHS” in July 2005. Amongst other matters this calls for improved alignment between PCT and local authority boundaries, a 15% reduction in management and administrative costs and reduced health inequalities through improved working with County and District Council’s. The challenge for the National Health Service is to move from a service that does thing ‘to’ and ‘for’ people to one that works ‘with’ people, involving patients more than has been the case traditionally. The stated aim is to create stronger Primary Care Trusts (PCT’s) to design, plan and develop better services for patients, to work more closely with local government and to more effectively support good practice.

1.2 It is anticipated the new role of PCT’s will be:

- Improve and protect the health of the population they serve by assessing need and having a

robust public health delivery system including emergency planning.

- Secure, through effective commissioning, a range of safe and effective primary, community, secondary and specialised services, which offer high quality, choice, and value for money.
  - Reduce health inequalities and ensure that the role of individuals is recognised and utilised at local level.
  - Develop and sustain strong relationships with GPs and their practices and implement a system of Practice Based Commissioning.
  - Work closely with local authority partners and other commissioners to ensure integrated commissioning of health and social care, including emergency planning.
  - Ensure that nurses, midwives and allied health professionals play a key role in improving the health of local populations.
  - Stimulate the development of nursing, midwifery and allied health profession providers.
  - Provide appropriate clinical leadership in a system of diverse providers.
  - Develop robust communication and involvement systems to manage relationships and engage with their local residents and communities.
  - Ensure that a range of services are provided for their communities in ways that most appropriately meet their local needs.
- 1.3 The Council is given three options to consider for the reconfiguration of the existing. Put simply there are two options for Cumbria. The first is for boundaries of the PCT and Cumbria to coincide. The other is for the Morecambe Bay PCT to be retained and a new PCT formed for North Cumbria. The choice then instead of the existing 13 PCT's should the whole region be covered by 4, 5 or 6 PCT's.
- 1.4 It is suggested the Council's response should be to support retention of the Morecambe Bay PCT Trust with a North Cumbria PCT Trust being responsible for the remainder of Cumbria. This equates to option 2 in the consultation paper and if supported ensures that as far as practical a Trust is created which can most closely match its focus on the needs of the communities in North Cumbria. This would automatically result in the North Cumbrian PCT becoming one of 5 in the region.

## **List of Appendices**

Background Papers: Consultation on New Primary Care Trust Arrangements for Cumbria and Lancashire SHA Area.

## **List of Consultees:**

Corporate Team; Cllr G Blackwell