

## PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE PODIATRY SERVICE

### About us

NHS North Kirklees Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and NHS Greater Huddersfield CCG are responsible for commissioning (buying) local healthcare services for people in Kirklees. Locala Community Partnerships provide community-based health services to over 400,000 in Kirklees and beyond and this includes Podiatry (foot care) services in Kirklees.

North Kirklees CCG and Greater Huddersfield CCG have delegated the responsibility of carrying out a consultation about proposed changes to the podiatry service to Locala Community Partnerships. Locala will deliver a consultation with local people who use podiatry services in Kirklees.

This document provides more details about the proposed changes, the reasons why we think change is required and explains how you can have your say.

The public consultation will run from 2 May – 21 July 2017.

### What are the proposed changes?

1. To help us improve the podiatry service we provide, we would like to reduce the number of locations where clinics are held in **Greater Huddersfield**.
2. The Podiatry team use a set of criteria to help decide who is eligible for treatment. This criteria has not been applied consistently throughout Kirklees and means that there are patients on the caseload who may not be eligible for Podiatry care. We would like to apply the existing eligibility criteria across the whole service to ensure that patients who have the greatest clinical need for podiatry care receive it when they need it most. This may mean that some patients will no longer be eligible for Podiatry services. This is a proposed change for all patients living in **Kirklees**.

## **What this means**

If you live in Greater Huddersfield there is a possibility that your podiatry appointments will be provided in a different location to the one you currently use.

If you are a podiatry patient in Kirklees and are seeing a podiatrist to have your toe nails cut, dry skin removal, fungal infections or verrucae, you **may** not be eligible for this service in the future.

**We want to explain more about podiatry services and our proposed changes so that you can tell us what you think.**

## **What is podiatry?**

Podiatry is an area of specialist healthcare that focuses on the prevention, diagnosis, treatment and rehabilitation of abnormal conditions of the feet and lower limbs. Podiatry is also involved in the prevention and correction of deformity, keeping people mobile and active, relieving pain and preventing the complications caused by conditions which put the foot at risk of ulceration and amputation.

## **Why things need to change?**

The NHS is highly valued by patients and important to the general public. The NHS and the service it provides does need to change over time to ensure it can meet the needs of everyone now and in the future. People are living longer and have increasingly complex health and care needs.

Demand for the podiatry service in Kirklees is growing and we would like to make some changes. By making changes we believe we can ensure that local health needs are met both now and in the future.

The current service needs to support those patients with the greatest need. For us to be able to provide the right treatment for people with high clinical needs, such as those with rheumatoid arthritis, peripheral arterial disease and diabetes, we need to follow

guidance which requires more specialist services. These patients have increased risk of developing complications of the foot such as developing foot ulcers or in worst case scenario amputation.

Whilst we would like to make changes, we also think that we can improve services for the patients who need it most by;

- Reducing waiting times for appointments and increasing clinical time
- Providing more choice of the days and times you can see someone
- Providing safer care by being able to see the patients who need it, more often
- Increasing the quality of care by providing more specialist care such as wound management
- Providing better support and information so people are able to care for their own feet and prevent future problems
- Providing clinics in buildings that are modern, clean, safe and fit for purpose.

**Proposed change 1** - We would like to reduce the number of locations we provide clinics in Greater Huddersfield. This will help us provide a better service and would increase the number of Podiatry appointments we can offer and provide more choice of appointments. This is a proposed change for patients living in **Greater Huddersfield area only**.

Currently Podiatry Services are provided in 17 locations across the Greater Huddersfield area. These are mostly held in GP practices and in health centres. Whilst some of the current clinics are in good locations the rooms are now not suitable for providing treatment. Clinics need to be in venues where they can have a dedicated room where they are equipped for podiatry needs all the time and are fully compliant with infection control and health and safety requirements.

By offering clinics in so many locations our podiatrists spend a significant amount of time away from patients because they have to travel to different sites each day. We propose that by reducing the number of clinic locations our podiatrists will be able to spend more time with patients by offering more appointments. This could include additional daytime and evening appointments at the majority of these locations throughout the week. Overall this change would mean that more clinical time would be available for patients who need it the most.

We have identified 8 locations where we know we can provide a dedicated room that is fully equipped and compliant and we would like you to consider if these are the right locations. When choosing these locations we took a number of things into consideration: feedback from existing patients, the number of patients we currently treat, how people would get to clinics including public transport options, parking facilities, waiting areas and locations where we can run later sessions. If we decided to make these changes around 1034 patients would have to use a different clinic.

**Where are we proposing the clinics should be?** Below is a list of all the locations in Greater Huddersfield where we now hold podiatry clinics. We have shown on the table the 8 clinics we would like to keep and why. We want to know what people think about how we have reviewed each location and what you think of the 8 locations we propose to use.

Key: purple 8 proposed clinics where podiatry clinics will remain.

Location	Locality	Available for use	Suitable room available	Parking available	Possible to increase clinical sessions	Bus route	Well Attended	Appointments per week currently.
Almondbury GP	Central	X	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
Dearne Valley HC Scissett	Dearne Valley	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	X	7
Fartown	Central	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	52
Honley GP	Dearne Valley	limited	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	19
Kirkburton GP	Dearne Valley	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	20
Kirkheaton GP	Dearne Valley	limited	X	✓	X	✓	X	7
Holmfirth HVMH	Colne Valley	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	44
Lepton GP	Dearne Valley	limited	X	✓	X	✓	X	7
Lindley Group Practice	Central	X	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
Marsden Health Centre	Colne Valley	limited	✓	✓	X	✓	X	10
Meltham The Cobbles GP	Colne Valley	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	34
Meltham Road Surgery	Colne Valley	limited	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	30
Mill Hill Health Centre	Central	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	52
Netherton GP	Colne Valley	✓	X	✓	X	✓	X	0

Slaitwaite Health Centre	Colne Valley	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	34
Newsome GP	Colne Valley	✓	X	✓	X	✓	✓	22
Princess Royal Health Centre	Central	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	340
Shepley GP	Dearne Valley	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	X	6
Skelmanthorpe	Dearne Valley	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	46
Waterloo GP	Central	limited	✓	X	X	✓	X	7

**Proposed change 2:** The Podiatry team use a set of criteria to help decide who is eligible for treatment. This criteria has not been applied consistently throughout Kirklees and means that there are patients on the caseload who may not be eligible for Podiatry care. We would like to apply the existing eligibility criteria across the whole service to ensure that patients who have the greatest clinical need for podiatry care receive it when they need it most. This may mean that some patients will no longer be eligible for Podiatry services. This is a proposed change for all patients living in **Kirklees**.

### Why things need to change?

The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (**NICE**) is part of the NHS and is the independent organisation responsible for providing national guidance on treatments and care for people using the NHS. NICE guidance recommends that foot care services related to certain long-term conditions should be available on the NHS. These are conditions are, peripheral arterial disease (reduced blood supply to the feet) and rheumatoid arthritis. There is no guidance for less serious conditions. This means that each individual CCG must decide what to make available.

In Kirklees, around 64% of podiatry appointments are for people aged over 65 years. People in our area are living longer, which is good news, however, it does mean that we have an increasing number of older patients with the type of long-term condition which

means they will need access to podiatry services. To help us meet this demand we need to review the current podiatry service so it can provide a service to those who need it the most.

These patients have an increased risk of developing a foot ulcer and without the correct care could go on to require amputation. We want to make sure patients with high clinical needs are given comprehensive, relevant podiatry provision in an attempt to avoid invasive surgery that carries greater risks and cost.

In Kirklees there is clear guidance that tells us who should receive podiatry treatment. In the past this guidance hasn't been strictly followed and there are people being treated who don't have a clinical need for podiatry.

We are proposing that people who have 'low risk' feet and no significant podiatry need, for example toe nail cutting, verrucae, dry skin and fungal infections will not receive podiatry services funded by the NHS.

### **What would the proposal mean for patients?**

#### **Under the proposal, people who may no longer receive a service are:**

- Those who have low risk podiatry need such as verrucae, dry skin, corns and fungal infections
- Patients who have no health issues
- Patients who currently receive routine nail cutting but are low risk.
- People who have mobility problems which mean they have trouble reaching their feet but have no other medical or foot conditions that put their feet at risk.

**Under the proposal patients who would still receive podiatry services are:**

- Anyone with ‘at risk’ or ‘high risk’ feet
- Patients who currently receive routine nail cutting but are high risk
- Those with a serious issue that affects their foot health such as peripheral arterial disease (reduced blood supply to the feet) peripheral sensory neuropathy (reduced sensation in the feet), previous or current foot ulcers, significant foot deformity and gait assessment (way of walking) and those requiring biomechanical assessment for foot pain causes by functional problems.

To help explain what we are proposing we have used some example patient stories.

Samiya	Gordon	James
Samiya has type 2 diabetes. She has some loss of feeling in her feet (neuropathy) and therefore has an increased risk of developing a foot ulcer. She has podiatry appointments every 12 weeks	Gordon is 75 year-old and enjoys an active life. He had a hip replacement a few years ago and finds it sometimes difficult to cut his nails. This hasn't been a problem in the past because he's been to Locala's podiatry team to have his toe nails cut.	James is 34, he enjoys playing sport but has developed an in-growing toenail which has become infected. James's GP has prescribed antibiotics and referred him to the podiatry service.

This is what would happen to these patients if these proposals go ahead:

Samiya	Gordon	James
Samiya will be made a regular appointment to have her feet checked every 12 weeks. This will enable the podiatrist to fully check her circulation, nerve supply and foot shape and remind	Bill receives an assessment appointment where he is told he has good foot health and therefore, low level needs and will no longer be eligible to receive podiatry appointments. At the appointment the	James referral will be sent to the podiatry team and he will receive a review appointment within x weeks. He will then receive surgery followed by a review and if all is well he'll be discharged from the

<p>her about her foot health.</p>	<p>podiatrist gives him a demonstration on how to look after his feet and toe nails. He is told if he develops a foot problem in the future he should visit his GP and if necessary he will be re-referred into the podiatry service. Bill is given the option of a group session to receive foot care advice, a leaflet and signposted to other foot care providers.</p>	<p>service</p>
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## Have your say

We believe these proposed changes will benefit patients who have the greatest need for podiatry care, improve the service we are able to provide, and ensure that the service is able to support the growing number of people who need care in Kirklees.

We would like you to tell us what you think about these proposals. Your views are really important to us if we are to make the right decision about the future of podiatry services.

### Could you tell us the first part of your postcode? i.e. HD8

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#### 1. After reading the information did you understand the proposals?

Yes, all of it       Yes, some of it       No

#### 2. Are you:

A patient that has used or is currently using the service

A carer of a patient that has used or is currently using the service

A healthcare professional

A member of staff

A member of the public that has not used the service in the past

Other, please state

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#### 3. What do you currently use the Podiatry service for?

Corns, painful hard skin       Nail Surgery

Toe nail cutting only       Biomechanics

Wound care       Diabetic checks

#### 4. If you or someone you care for currently uses the service or has done in the past, tell us how you normally travel to podiatry appointments:

- Public transport
- Taxi
- Car
- Walk
- Other (please state)

**5. Do you or someone you care for currently use/have used one of the 17 clinics in Greater Huddersfield:**

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

**6. We think it's important to redesign the service to ensure patients with high/moderate level needs get seen quicker and more frequently. Do you agree?**

**To what extent to you agree or disagree with the proposal?**

Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know	
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Please explain your reason for the above answer

**7. For those people who are no longer eligible for the podiatry service because they have low level foot care needs such as nail cutting, verrucae or dry skin, what support do you think we should provide?**

- Foot healthcare training from a qualified podiatrist
- Educational Leaflet
- Video clips
- Information about other local services on offer

What else would you suggest?

**8. We are proposing to reduce the number of clinics available in Greater Huddersfield from 17 to 8.**

<b>To what extent to you agree or disagree with the proposal?</b>					
Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know	
Please explain your reason for the above answer					

<b>Do you feel the proposal would in any way have an impact on you?</b>					
Yes a big impact	Yes, some impact		No, no impact	Do not know	This does not apply to me
Please explain your reason for the above answer					

**9. Is there anything else you think we should consider when making a decision about any changes to current podiatry services?**

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**EQUALITY MONITORING - OPTIONAL**

In order to ensure that we provide the best services for **all** of our communities, and to ensure that we do not knowingly discriminate against any section of our community, it is important for us to gather the following information. No personal information will be released when reporting statistical data and all information will be protected and stored securely in line with data protection rules.

This information will be kept confidential and you do not have to answer all of these questions, but we would be very grateful if you would.

**What sex are you?**

Female	<input type="checkbox"/>	Male	<input type="checkbox"/>	Prefer not to say	<input type="checkbox"/>
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<b>Transgender</b>										
Is your gender identity different to the sex you were assumed to be at birth?										
Yes			No			Prefer not to say				
<b>What is your age?</b>										
Under 16		16 - 25		26 - 35		36 - 45		46 – 55		Prefer not to say

<b>What is your sexual orientation?</b>									
Bisexual (both sexes)		Lesbian (same sex)			Gay man (same sex)		Heterosexual/ Straight (opposite sex)		
Other:	Please specify					Prefer not to say			

<b>What is your ethnic background?</b>									
<b>Asian, or Asian British</b>		<b>Black, or Black British</b>		<b>Mixed / multiple ethnic group</b>		<b>White</b>		<b>Other</b>	
Chinese		African		Asian & White		British		Arab	
Indian		Caribbean		Black African & White		Gypsy/Traveller			
Pakistani				Black Caribbean & White		Irish			
Other Asian background		Other Black background		Other Mixed / multiple ethnic background		Other White background			
Prefer not to say			Other: Please specify any other ethnic group here						

<b>Are you pregnant?</b>									
Yes			No			Prefer not to say			

<b>Have you given birth within the last six months?</b>									
Yes			No			Prefer not to say			

<b>Do you consider yourself to belong to any religion?</b>									
Buddhism		Christianity			Hinduism				
Islam		Judaism			Sikhism				
No religion		Prefer not to say			Other:		Please specify		

<b>Do you consider yourself to be disabled?</b>									
The Equality Act 2010 states that a person has a disability if: 'a person has a physical or mental impairment, and the impairment has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on that their ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities'									
Yes			No			Prefer not to say			

<b>If yes above, what type of disability do you have? (Tick all that apply)</b>									
Learning disability/difficulty		Long-standing illness or			Mental Health condition				

		health condition		
Physical or mobility		Hearing		Visual
Prefer not to say		Other:	Please specify	

<b>Do you provide care for someone?</b>				
Such as family, friends, neighbours or others who are ill, disabled or who need support because they are older.				
Yes		No		Prefer not to say

### Additional Information

This questionnaire can be completed on our website where regular updates will be available: [www.locala.org.uk/tbc](http://www.locala.org.uk/tbc).

If you need this form in another language or another format (such as large print) please contact us at: [podiatryconsultation@locala.org.uk](mailto:podiatryconsultation@locala.org.uk) Tel: tbc

(this information will be added in Urdu, Gujarati, Czech and Polish)

### Please return this completed form to:

Locala Community Partnerships CIC  
 Freepost Plus RSTJ-EYJA-UCTB  
 First Floor, Becksid Court  
 Bradford Road  
 Batley WF17 5PW

### Closing date

The consultation will end on 21 July 2017. All surveys must be received by midnight that day to ensure they are considered.

### Data protection

No personal information will be released when reporting statistical data and data will be protected and stored securely in line with data protection rules. This information will be kept confidential.