ERYCCG – We were delighted to be awarded the AQP contract for East Riding of Yorkshire CCG, We had our initial meeting with them on the 5th February and are having ongoing correspondence to ensure that they, and we are happy with the contract. Initial meetings with Webstar Health have been had and we are working towards mobilisation of this contract. In the last few weeks I have built and published a website which has been a steep learning curve for me but most enjoyable, I hope that you will all have a look at it and it will provide you with up to date information of what the company is doing and involved with. <http://www.primary-eyecare-north-yorkshire-and-humber.org/>

We sought advice about the Vetting and barring checks (formerly CRB) which the commissioners said we could set aside for the contract, and for now it is felt that we can leave this. It may be that later on in the contract that we may need to revisit this but for the time being this is one task that we will not need to do.

We have also been informed that the Quality in Optometry level 2 which is needed for the contract was being updated and wouldn’t be available for a couple of weeks. As soon as I have confirmation that this work has been completed I will write out to contractors and let them know they can get started. The changes have been made to bring the level 2 into line with the NHS standard contract.

We have had a tremendous response to the intention to tender letter which went out to all providers on the 6th February. Once mobilised we should have substantial coverage across the locality which is great news for us as a company.

Hull CCG – As you will be aware, Hull decided to procure in a different way to East Riding of Yorkshire and invited practices to tender individually. Many current providers of the scheme have decided that the level of work involved in doing this is disproportionate to the amount of activity coming into practices via the scheme and will not be providing the service on these terms. I have received many phone calls asking for advice on filling in the relevant paperwork for this, however having asked for legal guidance, the company were advised that they should not assist for fear of litigation. The tender process closes on 28th February at 5pm and we await notification to understand whether there will be enough coverage to provide the scheme.

North Lincs CCG – I met with colleagues to go through the specification that they had developed for the proposed scheme. Again they are looking to replicate the ER CORRS spec which seems sensible given the cross boundary issues in the Humber, we have made necessary amendments and shared our ideas for continuing the service including details of a previously run prescribing scheme and I await further information from the commissioner as to how this will be mobilised.

NE lincs CCG – Sarah Dowson shared a specification for a stable glaucoma screening service at the last NNELs LOC meeting, they decided to form a sub group to go through the specification in detail. My main concern re this is that it is very dependent on getting ophthalmologists on side to actually discharge patients into the scheme, and without this assurance we could potentially be putting providers through accreditation/distance learning with no patients coming into the scheme. I have shared these concerns with commissioners who are now aware.

Hambleton and Richmondshire – I have once again sent an email asking them to share their commissioning intentions with us, they want the scheme to continue but haven’t come back to explain how this will be mobilised.

Scarborough CCG – have had several meetings with them now regarding the continuation and development of Primary eyecare in the area, they are keen to work with us which is great news.

A meeting last week with the CCG and Acute trust explored other potential opportunities to look at developing the scheme further by including post cataract follow ups. I am working with their senior commissioning manager to work this up.

Harrogate CCG– I have been contacted by Harrogate stating they intend to roll over the current scheme however that they are not dealing with the contract however I was also informed that the CSU was.

The CSU also contacted me with a proposed payment pathway indicating that the Choice Office would continue to provide back office support. I have yet to unpick how this contract will be renewed or rolled over, before we can offer an opinion to the payment flow we need to know this, as obviously depending on how the service is to be commissioned our comments would be different.

Vale of York CCG – Again I have had a successful meeting with the senior commissioning manager and procurement manager at York. They are keen to work with us as a single provider company and are working up the specifications to share with us.

To conclude there is lots happening at the moment and I will try and keep all the updates on the website so that everyone can keep up to speed. Kate Malyn and myself have developed a business plan which was agreed at the last directors meeting and I attach this for information.