

NHS Proposals

You
said...

We did:



Protecting high
quality healthcare
services for the
long term

February 2018

Cosmetic Treatments

What changes were we proposing?

We proposed a change to the criteria for accessing treatment for a specific list of conditions that are considered by doctors to be 'cosmetic' in nature or of low clinical value.

These conditions include abdominal loose skin removal, male and female breast surgery (non-cancer), congenital ear deformity including pinnaplasty, cosmetic surgery and treatment, divarication of recti, epididymal cysts, female genitalia surgery, ganglia removal, hydrocele in males and testicular prosthesis.

The new policy would mean that funding for these conditions would only be met by the NHS in exceptional circumstances by Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Groups (BNSSG CCGs).

Why were we proposing these changes?

The CCGs proposed these changes as part of a wider review to improve how services are delivered to the local community while at the same time making savings to secure the long term future of healthcare in Bristol.

Who was consulted and involved?

For this proposal, we involved a range of stakeholders, patients and members of the public.

How were stakeholders consulted?

We carried out a four week online survey between mid-July and mid-August. The consultation was promoted, with relevant additional information, through the local media, the CCG websites and social media.

What did they say and how have we responded?

We received 49 responses of which 46 were from members of the public and three were from GPs. 55% of all responses agreed with the proposals while raising several key issues including the potential impact on a patient's mental health, that funds for these treatments should be directed elsewhere and that this type of treatment should be available on a case by case basis.

see over for details

You said

Patients may have mental health issues which may be impacted by their cosmetic concerns.

The NHS should focus funds elsewhere and patients with cosmetic concerns should self-fund treatment

Patients may be suffering from functional impairment linked to their condition and should be assessed by the GP or on a case by case basis and offered treatment if appropriate.

Our response

We commission comprehensive mental health services in order to support patients in managing their mental health.

This is line with the proposed policy but certain patients will be able to apply for individual funding on the basis of exceptionality.

Patients will be able to apply for individual funding on the basis of exceptionality.

You said:

Overall you supported this proposal but raised specific issues which have been responded to by the CCG as part of the consultation.

We did:

The new policies were approved by the Governing Body of the three CCGs in September 2017 and were put in place from mid-October. GPs have been issued with guidance on the new policies.

Further information and a more detailed report can be found at:

www.bristolccg.nhs.uk/get-involved/

www.northsomersetccg.nhs.uk/get-involved/

www.southgloucestershire.nhs.uk/get-involved/