

NHS BLACKPOOL CLINICAL COMMISSIONING GROUP
(the Commissioning Organisation)
LANCASHIRE COMMISSIONING POLICY: INTRODUCTION DOCUMENT

1 Background

- 1.1 The Commissioning Organisation is responsible (on behalf of the Secretary of State for Health) for commissioning interventions to prevent, diagnose and treat disease within its resident population and to promote the health of the local community.
- 1.2 The Commissioning Organisation operates within a system of fixed budgets and unmet healthcare need and is under a duty not to exceed this annual financial allocation. It seeks to make the best use of the public resources available to it; therefore prioritisation of interventions is required.
- 1.3 This introduction is part of a set of documents that support and underpin the decision-making process for the Commissioning Organisation and supports lawful and consistent commissioning policy by:
 - 1.3.1 Providing a coherent structure for discussion, ensuring all aspects of each document, in particular the Commissioning Principles for Health and Healthcare, are considered prior to decisions being made.
 - 1.3.2 Promoting fairness and consistency in decision-making including consideration to different clinical topics, thereby reducing the potential for inequity.
 - 1.3.3 Providing a means of explaining the reasons behind the decisions made.
 - 1.3.4 Reducing risk of judicial review by implementation of robust decision-making processes that are based on evidence incorporating clinical and cost effectiveness and the principles to be employed so that decisions are made in a manner which is appropriate, effective, cost-effective and ethical.
 - 1.3.5 Ensuring the values and strategic aspirations of the organisation are reflected in business decisions.
 - 1.3.6 Providing a consistent approach for the development of commissioning interventions and developing policies across the Commissioning Organisation.
 - 1.3.7 Ensuring comprehensive equality impact assessments are conducted.
- 1.4 The Commissioning Organisation will fulfil its statutory responsibility to commission in accordance with the NHS constitution and mandatory guidance.