



PRESS RELEASE

**For immediate release
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New partnership boosts commissioning of diabetes services

The commissioning of diabetes services will benefit from a new partnership between CHKS, the UK's leading independent provider of health intelligence services, the National Diabetes Support Team, The University of York and Yorkshire and Humber Public Health Observatory (YHPHO).

Diabetes is a chronic, progressive disease that is forecasted to affect over 5 per cent of the population of England by 2010 and accounts for 5 per cent of NHS expenditure. The new joint working programme is expected to make a significant impact on the commissioning of effective and efficient services.

Key experts from each of the partners, together with the University of York's Health Economics Consortium, will focus on development of an online interactive model which will support practical solutions for improving the use of NHS resources for patients with diabetes as well as those at risk of it.

Much of the work will be an extension of the existing tool developed by YHPHO to support the Diabetes Commissioning Toolkit. The overall objective will be to produce a user-friendly programme which is based on fit-for-purpose data sources.

The project will be managed through a collaborative steering group and CHKS and NDST are funding an information post to support the initiative. This post has now been filled by Naomi Holman, an Information Analyst based at YHPHO.

Naomi joins YPHO from Bradford and Airedale PCT and in her new role will be working alongside Lorraine Oldridge, Assistant Director/Project Lead (Diabetes) at YPHO. Naomi will be responsible for analysing, interpreting and presenting diabetes related data through a web-enabled tool. She will work with YPHO, CHKS Ltd and the National Diabetes Support Team, ensuring that any products are directly relevant to diabetes commissioners.

Graham Harries, Chief Executive, CHKS said: "I'm delighted that CHKS has been involved in this initiative and it can deliver real benefit to the commissioners of diabetes services."

Notes to editors:

1. CHKS Ltd is the leading independent provider of health intelligence and quality improvement services to the NHS and independent healthcare sector. With 18 years' experience and working internationally with 450 clients, CHKS has a portfolio of information products, internationally-recognised accreditation programmes and consultancy services which provide clinicians and managers with the information needed to drive improvements in patient care, financial efficiency, clinical effectiveness and quality.
2. The Yorkshire and Humber Public Health Observatory is part of the Association of Public Health Observatories (APHO), a federation of UK and Ireland Observatories, covering England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland.
3. York Health Economics Consortium (YHEC) is a company wholly owned by the University of York. YHEC was established in 1986 to extend the range of the University's services to the health care sector. YHEC's purpose is to provide consultancy and research in health economics to the NHS and to the pharmaceutical and health care industries, which combines rigorous research standards with efficient project delivery.
 - Activities in support of Primary Care Trusts have included:
 - Activity analysis, e.g. variation in referral patterns, casemix analysis for Payment by Results (PbR).
 - Resource allocation, e.g. use of formulae and other methods of distributing resources and each area's 'fair share'.
 - Benchmarking and decision support, e.g. providing summary guidance on best practice and literature reviews on priority topics for PCG/Ts.
 - Analysis of NHS financial flows, e.g. Payment by Results

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