

Joint commissioning in Milton Keynes



Overview

Within the non-acute contract portfolio that was managed by the Optum™ team based at Milton Keynes CCG, there were a number of contracts which were jointly commissioned with MK Council.

Objectives

The Optum team wanted to ensure that jointly commissioned contracts were being robustly managed and the CCG was aware and fully engaged with the joint commissioners.

Our approach

The Optum team developed close working relationships with the commissioning team based at MK Council to ensure consistent and effective working relationships are in place which benefited both parties. This work involved developing governance structures to manage joint contracts and associated budgets effectively, including establishing a robust meeting schedule with representation from all relevant parties and development of actions logs to monitor and ensure all key actions were completed. These working relationships were reinforced with regular communication, ensuring all key stakeholders were aware of the status of each contract and any issues raised in a timely manner. The team ensured they were involved in any key decision making involving any of these joint contracts.

Key outcomes:

The Optum team developed strong working relationships across the CCG and MK Council. This ensured the CCG had a greater understanding of the jointly commissioned contracts. Through the structured meeting schedule put in place, the team ensured the CCG were fully engaged with the Council and kept abreast of any developments or issues which would impact on the CCG. This was evidenced by the major part the team played in issuing a contract variation on the largest community contract to ensure it remained fit for purpose.

Conclusion

Close working relationships between joint commissioners enhances management of shared contracts by ensuring all parties are keep aware of any issues or developments required. Having a structured approach ensures key stakeholders are aware of their roles and responsibilities and minimises risk to all parties.



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