



Health economics and engagement with the external health community

Challenge

Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) are responsible for commissioning services to maximise the well-being of their population, within the resources available.

Each PCT in the East of England is required to develop their own PCT commissioning strategy. This must be locally designed and owned and priorities based on local needs and consistent with national requirements.

In early 2007, Great Yarmouth and Waveney PCT initiated the first phase to develop their PCT strategy. A review was conducted to analyse the existing plans for healthcare development and seven major service areas were identified that could be developed in the future. The PCT was required to sensibly and justifiably prioritise these seven strategic service development areas.

Solution

Representatives from the Health Economics Support Programme at the University Of East Anglia guided and facilitated a priority-setting workshop involving local decision-makers. The aim of the workshop was to work collectively through an established priority-setting process (multi-criteria analysis approach) and to develop a framework for local decision-making that would be used to prioritise the strategic service developments.

The workshop was structured in three stages. The first stage focused on determining criteria which the strategic service developments would be assessed against. The second stage of the workshop required participants to weight the criteria, and the final stage focused on scoring each service development against the criteria. A weighted benefit score was then calculated for each service development. The service development areas were prioritised based on these weighted benefit scores.

The results from this workshop provided the basis for guiding the strategic direction and development of services for the Great Yarmouth and Waveney Primary Care Trust for the next eight months (up to June 2008). This would then feed into the comprehensive five year PCT Strategy document to be developed in 2008.