

Oxford City Locality Commissioning Meeting

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| Date of Meeting: 11 October 2018 | | Paper No: 9 | | | |
| Title of Paper: Fit Notes update | | | | | |
| Is this paper for | Discussion | | Decision | | Information ✓ |

Purpose and summary of paper:

Reply from Jon Wood senior partnership manager for Oxfordshire Work and Pensions

Hi David

Thought I would give you a follow up on the meeting I had with the manager of the Centre for Health and Disability Assessments (CHDA) <https://www.chdauk.co.uk/>

When I spoke at your meeting I mistakenly said it was ATOS that did the ESA/Universal Credit Work Capability Assessments. Actually ATOs used to do the Personal Independence Payments (PIP) assessment but it is now the Independent Assessment Service (IAS) that do this link here <https://www.mypipassessment.co.uk/>

It is Health Assessment Advisory Service (HAAS) based in the CHDA that do the ESA/UC WCA (sorry too many ac- the manager who is based here at Aylesbury covers Oxfordshire and Milton Keynes – the centre is along St Aldates from the Police Station.

She said that although they had a liaison officer she would be happy to come along to one of your meetings with us to give you further information about what they do. But I also thought I would give you some key points from our meeting:

- All Assessors are medical professionals, usually ex-nurses – I spoke with one of them from Aylesbury and she said she used to work with you in some capacity.
- They can do Home Visits but need a Doctor's letter to support this, and they do offer payment of fares, but not taxis unless there is a specific requirement (again I believe this might need a Doctor's letter)
- Either before or following the assessment the centre will often request further information from the surgery on an ESA113 form. This is the key bit of communication between them and yourselves as any hold ups will cause problems for the claimant. I think that this is the area we can do some work on re: liaison between you both – please

let me know how you think we can do this. The CHDA cannot go ahead with assessments until they get the information on the 113 back from the surgery and there are some cases that date back to 2016 – this can delay them getting higher rates of benefit in some cases. Again this is something we could try to help with on the comms side.

☐ Surgeries often try to invoice the CHDA for the response to the 113 – the manager tells me that this is already contracted with NHS (it states so on the ESA113) so any invoices are ignored – so it would save time for surgeries to not take this action

The manager was also happy for anyone to visit the centre and to see an outline of a mock assessment to help them understand the process.

Hope this is useful, please let me know if we can attend either your next meeting or some future meeting to help with this, and again if you could let me know any contacts of the other Locality groups around Oxfordshire I would be really grateful.

As I say above it would be really good if we could do something around communications between yourselves and CHDA so again please let me know what we can do to start the ball rolling

Many thanks

Action Required:

Practices to note.

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