

Earle Road Medical Centre

Quality Report

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This report describes our judgement of the quality of care at this service. It is based on a combination of what we found when we inspected, information from our ongoing monitoring of data about services and information given to us from the provider, patients, the public and other organisations.

Ratings

Overall rating for this service

Good 

Are services safe?

Good 

Are services effective?

Good 

Are services caring?

Good 

Are services responsive to people's needs?

Good 

Are services well-led?

Good 

Summary of findings

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Overall summary

Letter from the Chief Inspector of General Practice

We carried out an announced comprehensive inspection at Earle Road Medical Centre on 19 April 2016. Overall the practice is rated as good.

Our key findings across all the areas we inspected were as follows:

- There was an open and transparent approach to safety and an effective system in place for reporting and recording significant events.
- Risks to patients were assessed and well managed.
- Staff assessed patients' needs and delivered care in line with current evidence based guidance. Staff had been trained to provide them with the skills, knowledge and experience to deliver effective care and treatment.
- Patients said they were treated with compassion, dignity and respect and they were involved in their care and decisions about their treatment.

- Information about services and how to complain was available and easy to understand. Improvements were made to the quality of care as a result of complaints and concerns.
- Patients said they found it easy to make an appointment with a named GP and there was continuity of care, with urgent appointments available the same day.
- The practice had good facilities and was well equipped to treat patients and meet their needs.
- There was a clear leadership structure and staff felt supported by management. The practice proactively sought feedback from staff and patients, which it acted on.
- The provider was aware of and complied with the requirements of the duty of candour.

There were areas of outstanding practice as follows:

- The practice is based in a deprived area of Liverpool with a substantial (bbme) patient profile. The practice team including the trainee doctors have been working hard to improve access for this population

Summary of findings

group, particularly in areas where there was poor uptake such as access to cervical screening and children's immunisations. The practice was aware that some members of these communities were unaware of services available at the GP practice. To improve access they set up links with a local community centre and Liverpool CCG to provide health promotion and education sessions within the centre for females from the BME communities. Education workshops were held in the centre run by the practice team focusing on women's health and well being covering topics such as childhood immunisation, women's health, heart disease, cervical smears and diabetes. The practice advised that this work had

The areas where the provider should make improvement are:

- The practice should provide written information in different languages to meet the profile of the patient population
- The provider should ensure that information is held for locum GPs including documentary evidence of their professional registrations, fitness to practice and records of their completed training.
- The provider should ensure full and completed minutes are kept for all multi disciplinary meetings taking place.

Professor Steve Field (CBE FRCP FFPH FRCGP)

Chief Inspector of General Practice

Summary of findings

The five questions we ask and what we found

We always ask the following five questions of services.

Are services safe?

The practice is rated as good for providing safe services.

- There was an effective system in place for reporting and recording significant events
- Lessons were shared to make sure action was taken to improve safety in the practice.
- When things went wrong patients received reasonable support, truthful information, and a written apology. They were told about any actions to improve processes to prevent the same thing happening again.
- The practice had clearly defined and embedded systems, processes and practices in place to keep patients safe and safeguarded from abuse.
- Risks to patients were assessed and well managed.

Good



Are services effective?

The practice is rated as good for providing effective services.

- Data from the Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF) showed patient outcomes were at or above average compared to the national average.
- Staff assessed needs and delivered care in line with current evidence based guidance.
- Clinical audits demonstrated quality improvement.
- Staff had the skills, knowledge and experience to deliver effective care and treatment.
- There was evidence of appraisals and personal development plans for all staff.
- Staff worked with other health care professionals to understand and meet the range and complexity of patients' needs.

Good



Are services caring?

The practice is rated as good for providing caring services.

- Data from the national GP patient survey showed patients rated the practice higher than others for several aspects of care.
- Patients said they were treated with compassion, dignity and respect and they were involved in decisions about their care and treatment.
- Information for patients about the services available was easy to understand and accessible.
- We saw staff treated patients with kindness and respect, and maintained patient and information confidentiality.

Good



Summary of findings

Are services responsive to people's needs?

The practice is rated as good for providing responsive services.

- Practice staff reviewed the needs of its local population and engaged with the NHS England Area Team and Clinical Commissioning Group to secure improvements to services where these were identified.
- Patients said they found it easy to make an appointment with a named GP and there was continuity of care, with urgent appointments available the same day.
- The practice had good facilities and was well equipped to treat patients and meet their needs.
- Information about how to complain was available and easy to understand and evidence showed the practice responded quickly to issues raised. Learning from complaints was shared with staff and other stakeholders.

Good



Are services well-led?

The practice is rated as good for being well-led.

- The practice had a clear vision and strategy to deliver high quality care and promote good outcomes for patients. Staff were clear about the vision and their responsibilities in relation to it.
- There was a clear leadership structure and staff felt supported by management. The practice had a number of policies and procedures to govern activity and held regular governance meetings.
- There was an overarching governance framework which supported the delivery of the strategy and good quality care. This included arrangements to monitor and improve quality and identify risk.
- The provider was aware of and complied with the requirements of the duty of candour. The partners encouraged a culture of openness and honesty. The practice had systems in place for notifiable safety incidents and ensured this information was shared with staff to ensure appropriate action was taken.
- The practice proactively sought feedback from staff and patients, which it acted on. The patient participation group was active.
- There was a strong focus on continuous learning and improvement at all levels.

Good



Summary of findings

The six population groups and what we found

We always inspect the quality of care for these six population groups.

Older people

The practice is rated as good for the care of older people.

- The practice offered proactive, personalised care and treatment to meet the needs of the older people in its population. The practice kept up to date registers of patients with a range of health conditions (including conditions common in older people) and used this information to plan reviews of health care and to offer services such as vaccinations for flu.
- The practice provided a range of enhanced services, for example, the provision of care plans for patients over the age of 75 and screening patients for dementia.
- Nationally reported data showed that outcomes for patients for conditions commonly found in older people were similar to or better than local and national averages.
- GPs carried out regular visits to local care homes to assess and review patients' needs and to prevent unplanned hospital admissions.
- Home visits and urgent appointments were provided for patients with enhanced needs.
- The practice used the 'Gold Standard Framework' (this is a systematic evidence based approach to improving the support and palliative care of patients nearing the end of their life) to ensure patients received appropriate care.
- The GPs held special interests in conditions commonly found in older people and there was a designated GP lead for the care of patients over 75 years of age.
- Staff had been provided with training in dementia awareness to support them in supporting patients with dementia care needs.

Good



People with long term conditions

The practice is rated as good for the care of people with long-term conditions.

- The practice held information about the prevalence of specific long term conditions within its patient population. This included conditions such as diabetes, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), cardio vascular disease and hypertension. The information was used to target service provision, for example to ensure patients who required immunisations received these.
- The GPs had lead roles in chronic diseases and practice nurses held dedicated lead roles for chronic disease management. As

Good



Summary of findings

part of this they provided regular, structured reviews of patients' health. Patients with several long term conditions were offered a single, longer appointment to avoid multiple visits to the surgery.

- Data from 2014 to 2015 showed that the practice was comparable with other practices nationally for the care and treatment of people with chronic health conditions such as diabetes. For example, the percentage of patients with diabetes, on the register, who had had influenza immunisation was 96% compared to a national average of 94%.
- Longer appointments and home visits were available for patients with long term conditions when these were required.
- The practice contacted patients following admission to hospital to check if they required any services from the practice.
- The practice held regular multi-disciplinary meetings to discuss patients with complex needs and patients receiving end of life care.

Families, children and young people

The practice is rated as good for the care of families, children and young people.

- There were systems in place to identify and follow up children living in disadvantaged circumstances and those who were at risk, for example, children and young people who had a high number of A&E attendances. A GP was the designated lead for child protection.
- Staff we spoke with had appropriate knowledge about child protection and they had ready access to safeguarding policies and procedures.
- Child surveillance clinics were provided for 6-8 week olds and immunisation rates were comparable to the national average for all standard childhood immunisations. The practice monitored non-attendance of babies and children at vaccination clinics and staff told us they would report any concerns they had identified to relevant professionals.
- The practice worked with local community groups to encourage patients from a BME background to improve their access to primary care services, including childhood vaccinations.
- Appointments were available outside of school hours.
- The premises were suitable for children and babies and baby changing facilities were available.
- Family planning services were provided and the practice had a lead for sexual health and contraception.

Good



Summary of findings

Working age people (including those recently retired and students)

Good



The practice is rated as good for the care of working-age people (including those recently retired and students).

- The needs of the working age population, those recently retired and students had been identified and the practice had adjusted the services it offered to ensure these were accessible, flexible and offered continuity of care.
- Telephone consultations were available and this meant patients did not always have to attend the practice in person.
- The practice had extended opening hours on a Wednesday evening until 8.30pm.
- The practice provided a full range of health promotion and screening that reflected the needs of this age group.
- The practice was proactive in offering online services including the booking of appointments and request for repeat prescriptions. Electronic prescribing was also provided.

People whose circumstances may make them vulnerable

Good



The practice is rated as good for the care of people whose circumstances may make them vulnerable.

- The practice held a register of patients living in vulnerable circumstances in order to provide the services patients required. For example, a register of people who had a learning disability was maintained to ensure patients were provided with an annual health check and to ensure longer appointments were provided for patients who required these. Patients spoke positively about the GPs attendance at these annual reviews.
- The practice provided primary care to people who have a learning disability who were living in a local care home.
- Staff were aware of their responsibilities regarding information sharing, documentation of safeguarding concerns and how to contact relevant agencies in normal working hours and out of hours.
- The practice was accessible to people who required disabled access and facilities and services such as a hearing loop system (used to support patients who wear a hearing aid) and translation services were available.
- Information and advice was available about how to access a range of support groups and voluntary organisations.

Summary of findings

People experiencing poor mental health (including people with dementia)

The practice is rated as good for the care of people experiencing poor mental health (including people with dementia).

- Data about how people with mental health needs were supported showed that outcomes for patients using this practice were similar to or better than average. For example, data showed that 93% of patients diagnosed with dementia had had their care reviewed in a face to face meeting in the last 12 months. This compared to a national average of 84.0%.
- The practice provided an enhanced service for screening patients to identify patients at risk of dementia and to develop care plans with them.
- Practice staff had been provided with training in dementia awareness to support them in supporting patients with dementia care needs.
- Processes were in place to prompt patients for medicines reviews at intervals suitable to the medication they took.
- Patients experiencing poor mental health were informed about how to access various support groups and voluntary organisations.

Good



Summary of findings

What people who use the service say

The National GP Patient survey results were published on published in January 2016 showed the practice was performing in line with local and national averages. The results showed the practice was performing in line with local and national averages, 406 survey forms were distributed and 92 were returned. This represented around 2% of the practice's patient list.

- 79% of patients found it easy to get through to this practice by phone compared to the national average of 73%.
- 60% of patients were able to get an appointment to see or speak to someone the last time they tried compared to the national average of 76%.
- 87% of patients described the overall experience of this GP practice as good compared to the national average of 85%.
- 77% of patients said they would recommend this GP practice to someone who has just moved to the local area compared to the national average of 79%.

As part of our inspection we also asked for CQC comment cards to be completed by patients prior to our inspection. We received 48 comment cards which were all positive about the standard of care received. Patients said staff were caring and supportive and always gave them enough time to talk. We heard that GPs were good at listening to patients without them feeling hurried. Patients did tell us it was difficult to get an appointment with a female GP and the practice were aware of this concern.

Areas for improvement

Action the service SHOULD take to improve

- The practice should provide written information in different languages to meet the profile of the patient population
- The provider should ensure that information is held for locum GPs including documentary evidence of their professional registrations, fitness to practice and records of their completed training.
- The provider should ensure full and completed minutes are kept for all multi disciplinary meetings taking place.

Outstanding practice

The practice is based in a deprived area of Liverpool with a substantial BME patient profile. The practice team including the trainee doctors have been working hard to improve access for this population group, particularly in areas where there was poor uptake such as access to cervical screening and children's immunisations. The practice was aware that some members of these communities were unaware of services available at the GP practice. To improve access they set up links with a

local community centre and Liverpool CCG to provide health promotion and education sessions within the centre for females from the BME communities. Education workshops were held in the centre run by the practice team focusing on women's health and well being covering topics such as childhood immunisation, women's health, heart disease, cervical smears and diabetes. The practice advised that this work had

Earle Road Medical Centre

Detailed findings

Our inspection team

Our inspection team was led by:

Our inspection team was led by a CQC Lead Inspector. The team included a GP specialist adviser, a second CQC inspector and a practice manager.

Background to Earle Road Medical Centre

Earle Road Medical Centre is registered with CQC to provide primary care services, which includes access to GPs, family planning, ante and post natal care. The practice is a long established GP practice working in the centre of Liverpool in a newly purpose built. The practice has a General Medical Services (GMS) contract with a registered list size of 4250 patients (at the time of inspection). The practice population is younger than the city average with a significantly higher proportion of children aged 0-4 years and proportionately fewer people aged 85+ years. It is estimated that around two-fifths (39.8%) of the population are Not White British/Irish, 10.6% are Black/African/Caribbean/Black British and 9.3% are Asian/Asian British ethnicity with 18.4% of the population's main language is not English. This is significantly above the Liverpool average and the highest in the city.

The practice is in the Picton neighbourhood which is the 4th most deprived in the city. In addition it is estimated that unemployment is significantly higher than the city rate (8.1% compared to 7.2%) and 5.7% of the population are long term sick or disabled. Around 43.1% of the population are economically inactive which is significantly above the city average and the 2nd highest out of all neighbourhoods across the city.

The practice offers a range of enhanced services including minor surgery, flu vaccinations, timely diagnosis of dementia and learning disability health checks. The practice has one lead GP, long term GP locums and F2 trainee doctors. They have one practice manager, practice nurse and health care assistant, practice and a number of administration and reception staff. The practice has open access appointment for GPs for urgent cases each morning. Bookable appointments are available daily. Home visits and telephone consultations were available for patients who required them, including housebound patients and older patients. There are also arrangements to ensure patients receive urgent medical assistance out of hours when the practice is closed.

Why we carried out this inspection

We carried out a comprehensive inspection of this service under Section 60 of the Health and Social Care Act 2008 as part of our regulatory functions. The inspection was planned to check whether the provider is meeting the legal requirements and regulations associated with the Health and Social Care Act 2008, to look at the overall quality of the service, and to provide a rating for the service under the Care Act 2014.

How we carried out this inspection

Before visiting, we reviewed a range of information we hold about the practice and asked other organisations to share what they knew. We carried out an announced visit on 19 April 2016. During our visit we:

Detailed findings

- Spoke with a range of staff and spoke with patients who used the service.
- Observed how patients were being cared for and talked with carers and/or family members
- Reviewed an anonymised sample of the personal care or treatment records of patients.
- Reviewed comment cards where patients and members of the public shared their views and experiences of the service.'

To get to the heart of patients' experiences of care and treatment, we always ask the following five questions:

- Is it safe?
- Is it effective?
- Is it caring?
- Is it responsive to people's needs?
- Is it well-led?

We also looked at how well services were provided for specific groups of people and what good care looked like for them. The population groups are:

- Older people
- People with long-term conditions
- Families, children and young people
- Working age people (including those recently retired and students)
- People whose circumstances may make them vulnerable
- People experiencing poor mental health (including people with dementia).

Please note that when referring to information throughout this report, for example any reference to the Quality and Outcomes Framework data, this relates to the most recent information available to the CQC at that time.

Are services safe?

Our findings

Safe track record and learning

There was an effective system in place for reporting and recording significant events. Staff told us they would inform the practice manager of any incidents and there was a recording form available on the practice's computer system. The incident recording form supported the recording of notifiable incidents under the duty of candour. (The duty of candour is a set of specific legal requirements that providers of services must follow when things go wrong with care and treatment).

We saw evidence that when things went wrong with care and treatment, patients were informed of the incident, received reasonable support, truthful information, a written apology and were told about any actions to improve processes to prevent the same thing happening again. The practice carried out a thorough analysis of the significant events.

We reviewed safety records, incident reports, patient safety alerts and minutes of meetings where these were discussed. We saw evidence that lessons were shared and action was taken to improve safety in the practice.

Overview of safety systems and processes

The practice had clearly defined and embedded systems, processes and practices in place to keep patients safe and safeguarded from abuse, which included:

- Arrangements were in place to safeguard children and vulnerable adults from abuse. These arrangements reflected relevant legislation and local requirements. Policies were accessible to all staff. However adult safeguarding policies were not in place at the time of the inspection. Soon after a draft policy was submitted to CQC. The policies clearly outlined who to contact for further guidance if staff had concerns about a patient's welfare. There was a lead member of staff for safeguarding. The GPs attended safeguarding meetings when possible and always provided reports where necessary for other agencies. Staff demonstrated they understood their responsibilities and all had received training on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults relevant to their role. GPs were trained to child protection or child safeguarding level 3.

- A notice in the waiting room advised patients that chaperones were available if required. All staff who acted as chaperones were trained for the role and had received a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check. (DBS)
- The practice maintained appropriate standards of cleanliness and hygiene. We observed the premises to be clean and tidy. The practice nurse was the infection control clinical lead who liaised with the local infection prevention teams to keep up to date with best practice. There was an infection control protocol in place and staff had received up to date training. Annual infection control audits were undertaken and we saw evidence that action was taken to address any improvements identified as a result.
- The arrangements for managing medicines, including emergency medicines and vaccines, in the practice kept patients safe (including obtaining, prescribing, recording, handling, storing, security and disposal). Processes were in place for handling repeat prescriptions which included the review of high risk medicines. The practice carried out regular medicines audits, with the support of the local CCG pharmacy teams, to ensure prescribing was in line with best practice guidelines for safe prescribing. Blank prescription forms and pads were securely stored and there were systems in place to monitor their use. The practice nurse had qualified as an Independent Prescriber and could therefore prescribe medicines for specific clinical conditions. Patient Group Directions had been adopted by the practice to allow nurses to administer medicines in line with legislation.
- We reviewed four personnel files and found appropriate recruitment checks had been undertaken prior to employment. For example, proof of identification, references, qualifications, registration with the appropriate professional body and the appropriate checks through the Disclosure and Barring Service. However the same information was not held for the GPs working at the practice.

Monitoring risks to patients

Risks to patients were assessed and well managed.

- There were procedures in place for monitoring and managing risks to patient and staff safety. There was a health and safety policy available with a poster in the reception office which identified local health and safety

Are services safe?

representatives. The practice had up to date fire risk assessments and carried out regular fire drills. All electrical equipment was checked to ensure the equipment was safe to use and clinical equipment was checked to ensure it was working properly. The practice had a variety of other risk assessments in place to monitor safety of the premises such as control of substances hazardous to health and infection control and legionella (Legionella is a term for a particular bacterium which can contaminate water systems in buildings). A fire risk assessment was submitted to CQC following the inspection.

- Arrangements were in place for planning and monitoring the number of staff and mix of staff needed to meet patients' needs. There was a rota system in place for all the different staffing groups to ensure enough staff were on duty.

Arrangements to deal with emergencies and major incidents

The practice had adequate arrangements in place to respond to emergencies and major incidents.

- There was an instant messaging system on the computers in all the consultation and treatment rooms which alerted staff to any emergency.
- All staff received annual basic life support training and there were emergency medicines available in the treatment room.
- The practice had a defibrillator available on the premises and oxygen with adult and children's masks. A first aid kit and accident book were available.
- Emergency medicines were easily accessible to staff in a secure area of the practice and all staff knew of their location. All the medicines we checked were in date and stored securely.
- The practice had a comprehensive business continuity plan in place for major incidents such as power failure or building damage. The plan included emergency contact numbers for staff.

Are services effective?

(for example, treatment is effective)

Our findings

Effective needs assessment

The practice assessed needs and delivered care in line with relevant and current evidence based guidance and standards, including National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) best practice guidelines. The practice had systems in place to keep all clinical staff up to date. Staff had access to guidelines from NICE and used this information to deliver care and treatment that met patients' needs. The practice monitored that these guidelines were followed through risk assessments, audits and random sample checks of patient records.

Management, monitoring and improving outcomes for people

The practice used information collected for the Quality Outcomes Framework (QOF) and performance against national screening programmes to monitor outcomes for patients. QOF is a system intended to improve the quality of general practice and reward good practice. The most recent published QOF results showed that the practice had achieved 96.1% of the total number of points available. This practice was not an outlier for any QOF (or other national) clinical targets. Data from 01/04/2014 to 31/03/2015 showed;

This practice was not an outlier for any QOF (or other national) clinical targets. Data from 01/04/2014 to 31/03/2015 showed;

- Performance for diabetes related indicators was better to the national average. For example, the percentage of patients with diabetes, on the register, who had had influenza immunisation was 96% compared to a national average of 94%.
- The performance for mental health related indicators was comparable to the national average. For example, the percentage of patients with schizophrenia, bipolar affective disorder and other psychoses who had a comprehensive, agreed care plan in the preceding 12 months was 92% compared to a national average of 88%.
- The percentage of patients diagnosed with dementia whose care had been reviewed in a face-to-face review in the preceding 12 months was 93% compared to a national average of 84%.

We looked at the processes in place for clinical audit. Clinical audit is a way to find out if the care and treatment being provided is in line with best practice and it enables providers to know if the service is doing well and where they could make improvements. The aim is to promote improvements to the quality of outcomes for patients. We found there had been a number of clinical audits completed in the last two years; these were two cycle completed audits where the improvements made were implemented and monitored. For example, one audit had been carried out with regards to the treatment of patients with atrial fibrillation (a heart condition that causes an irregular and often abnormally fast heart rate). This showed an increase in the number of patients assessed and treated in line with current evidence based guidance for the treatment of atrial fibrillation.

Clinicians attended a weekly clinical meeting to discuss clinical matters and review the care and treatment provided to patients with complex needs. Multi-disciplinary meetings were also held to review the care and treatment provided to people receiving end of life care.

Effective staffing

Staff had the skills, knowledge and experience to deliver effective care and treatment.

- The practice had an induction programme for all newly appointed staff. This covered such topics as safeguarding, infection prevention and control, fire safety, health and safety and confidentiality.
- The practice could demonstrate how they ensured role-specific training and updating for relevant staff. For example, for those reviewing patients with long-term conditions.
- Staff administering vaccines and taking samples for the cervical screening programme had received specific training which had included an assessment of competence. Staff who administered vaccines could demonstrate how they stayed up to date with changes to the immunisation programmes, for example by access to on line resources and discussion at practice meetings.
- The learning needs of staff were identified through a system of appraisals, meetings and reviews of practice development needs. Staff had access to appropriate training to meet their learning needs and to cover the

Are services effective?

(for example, treatment is effective)

scope of their work. This included ongoing support, one-to-one meetings, coaching and mentoring, clinical supervision and facilitation and support for revalidating GPs. All staff had received an appraisal within the last 12 months.

- Staff received training that included: safeguarding, fire safety awareness, basic life support and information governance. Staff had access to and made use of e-learning training modules and in-house training.

Coordinating patient care and information sharing

The information needed to plan and deliver care and treatment was available to relevant staff in a timely and accessible way through the practice's patient record system and their intranet system.

- This included care and risk assessments, care plans, medical records and investigation and test results.
- The practice shared relevant information with other services in a timely way, for example when referring patients to other services.

Staff worked together and with other health and social care professionals to understand and meet the range and complexity of patients' needs and to assess and plan ongoing care and treatment. This included when patients moved between services, including when they were referred, or after they were discharged from hospital. Meetings took place with other health care professionals on a monthly basis when care plans were routinely reviewed and updated for patients with complex needs.

Consent to care and treatment

Staff sought patients' consent to care and treatment in line with legislation and guidance.

- Staff understood the relevant consent and decision-making requirements of legislation and guidance, including the Mental Capacity Act 2005. When providing care and treatment for children and young people, staff carried out assessments of capacity to consent in line with relevant guidance.

- Where a patient's mental capacity to consent to care or treatment was unclear the GP or practice nurse assessed the patient's capacity and, recorded the outcome of the assessment.
- The process for seeking consent was monitored through patient records audits.

Supporting patients to live healthier lives

The practice identified patients who may be in need of extra support. For example, patients receiving end of life care, carers, those at risk of developing a long-term condition and those requiring advice on their diet, smoking and alcohol cessation. Patients were signposted to the relevant service.

The practice's uptake for the cervical screening programme was 65%, which was lower than the national average of 81%. The practice was aware of this and outreach work was undertaken at the practice to try to improve engagement with the BME community. The practice demonstrated how they encouraged uptake of the screening programme by using information in different languages and for those with a learning disability and they ensured a female sample taker was available. The practice had a policy to offer telephone reminders for patients who did not attend for their cervical screening test. The practice also encouraged its patients to attend national screening programmes for bowel and breast cancer screening. The practice had systems in place to ensure results were received for all samples sent for the cervical screening programme and the practice followed up women who were referred as a result of abnormal results.

Childhood immunisation rates for the vaccinations given were comparable to CCG/national averages. For example, childhood immunisation rates for the vaccinations given to under two year olds ranged from 93% to 95%.

Patients had access to appropriate health assessments and checks. These included health checks for new patients and NHS health checks for patients aged 40–74. Appropriate follow-ups for the outcomes of health assessments and checks were made, where abnormalities or risk factors were identified.

Are services caring?

Our findings

Kindness, dignity, respect and compassion

We observed members of staff were courteous and very helpful to patients and treated them with dignity and respect.

- Curtains were provided in consulting rooms to maintain patients' privacy and dignity during examinations, investigations and treatments.
- We noted that consultation and treatment room doors were closed during consultations; conversations taking place in these rooms could not be overheard.
- Reception staff knew when patients wanted to discuss sensitive issues or appeared distressed they could offer them a private room to discuss their needs.

All of the 48 patient Care Quality Commission comment cards we received were positive about the service experienced. Patients said they felt the practice offered an excellent service and staff were helpful, caring and treated them with dignity and respect. However, a small number told us that access to a female GP was difficult.

We spoke with five members of the patient participation group (PPG). They also told us they were satisfied with the care provided by the practice and said their dignity and privacy was respected. Comment cards highlighted that staff responded compassionately when they needed help and provided support when required.

Results from the national GP patient survey showed patients felt they were treated with compassion, dignity and respect. The practice was at or above average for its satisfaction scores on consultations with GPs and nurses. For example:

- 91% of patients said the GP was good at listening to them compared to the clinical commissioning group (CCG) average of 88% and the national average of 88%.
- 92% of patients said the GP gave them enough time compared to the CCG average of 89% and the national average of 86%.
- 100% of patients said they had confidence and trust in the last GP they saw compared to the CCG average of 96% and the national average of 95%

- 89% of patients said the last GP they spoke to was good at treating them with care and concern compared to the national average of 85%).
- 88% of patients said the last nurse they spoke to was good at treating them with care and concern compared to the national average of 90%).
- 88% of patients said they found the receptionists at the practice helpful compared to the CCG average of 88% and the national average of 87%)

Care planning and involvement in decisions about care and treatment

Patients told us they felt involved in decision making about the care and treatment they received. They also told us they felt listened to and supported by staff and had sufficient time during consultations to make an informed decision about the choice of treatment available to them. Patient feedback from the comment cards we received was also positive and aligned with these views. We also saw that care plans were personalised.

Results from the national GP patient survey showed patients responded positively to questions about their involvement in planning and making decisions about their care and treatment. Results were in line with local and national averages. For example:

- 91% of patients said the last GP they saw was good at explaining tests and treatments compared to the CCG average of 88% and the national average of 86%.
- 87% of patients said the last GP they saw was good at involving them in decisions about their care compared to the national average of 81%.
- 89% of patients said the last nurse they saw was good at involving them in decisions about their care compared to the national average of 85%)

The practice provided facilities to help patients be involved in decisions about their care. Staff told us that translation services were available for patients who did not have English as a first language. However there were no notices in the reception areas informing patients this service was available.

Patient and carer support to cope emotionally with care and treatment

Are services caring?

Patient information leaflets and notices were available in the patient waiting area which told patients how to access a number of support groups and organisations.

Information about support groups was also available on the practice website.

The practice's computer system alerted GPs if a patient was also a carer. Written information was available to direct

carers to the various avenues of support available to them. Staff told us that if families had suffered bereavement, their usual GP contacted them or sent them a sympathy card.

This call was either followed by a patient consultation at a flexible time and location to meet the family's needs and/or by giving them advice on how to find a support service.

Are services responsive to people's needs?

(for example, to feedback?)

Our findings

Responding to and meeting people's needs

The practice reviewed the needs of its local population and engaged with the NHS England Area Team and Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) to secure improvements to services where these were identified. For example:

- There were longer appointments available for patients with a learning disability.
- Home visits were available for older patients and patients who had clinical needs which resulted in difficulty attending the practice.
- Same day appointments were available for children and those patients with medical problems that require same day consultation.
- There were disabled facilities, a hearing loop and translation services available.
- The practice is based in a deprived area of Liverpool with a substantial BME patient profile. The practice team including the trainee doctors have been working hard to improve access for this population group, particularly in areas where there was poor uptake such as access to cervical screening and children's immunisations. The practice was aware that some members of these communities were unaware of services available at the GP practice. To improve access they set up links with a local community centre and Liverpool CCG to provide health promotion and education sessions within the centre for females from the BME communities. Education workshops were held in the centre run by the practice team focusing on women's health and well being covering topics such as childhood immunisation, women's health, heart disease, cervical smears and diabetes. We heard from the practice this work had

Access to the service

The practice was open between 08.am to 6.30pm Monday to Friday. Appointments were from 8.30am to 6.30pm. Extended hours appointments were offered at the following times on a Wednesday evening until 8.30pm. In addition to pre-bookable appointments that could be booked up to six weeks in advance, urgent appointments were also available for people that needed them.

Results from the national GP patient survey showed that patient's satisfaction with how they could access care and treatment was comparable to local and national averages.

- 94% of patients were satisfied with the practice's opening hours compared to the national average of 78%.
- 79% of patients said they could get through easily to the practice by phone compared to the national average of 73%).

People told us on the day of the inspection that they were able to get appointments when they needed them. However, a number said that appointments with a female GP was difficult to get. The practice was aware of this and had recently arranged for a female GP to work at the practice. The practice had a system in place to assess whether a home visit was clinically necessary and the urgency of the need for medical attention. In cases where the urgency of need was so great that it would be inappropriate for the patient to wait for a GP home visit, alternative emergency care arrangements were made. Clinical and non-clinical staff were aware of their responsibilities when managing requests for home visits.

Listening and learning from concerns and complaints

The practice had an effective system in place for handling complaints and concerns.

- Its complaints policy and procedures were in line with recognised guidance and contractual obligations for GPs in England.
- There was a designated responsible person who handled all complaints in the practice.
- We saw that information was available to help patients understand the complaints system for example complaints posters were seen in the patient waiting room and a leaflet was available.

We looked at three informal complaints received in the last 12 months and found they had been satisfactorily dealt with in a responsive and caring way. Lessons were learnt from individual concerns and complaints and also from analysis of trends and action was taken to as a result to improve the quality of care.

Are services well-led?

Good 

(for example, are they well-managed and do senior leaders listen, learn and take appropriate action)

Our findings

Vision and strategy

The practice had a clear vision to deliver high quality care and promote good outcomes for patients. The practice had a mission statement which was displayed in the waiting areas and staff knew and understood the values. The practice had a robust strategy and supporting business plans which reflected the vision and values and were regularly monitored.

Governance arrangements

The practice had an overarching governance framework which supported the delivery of the strategy and good quality care. This outlined the structures and procedures in place and ensured that:

- There was a clear staffing structure and that staff were aware of their own roles and responsibilities.
- Practice specific policies were implemented and were available to all staff. These were currently paper based policies and plans were in place to have these electronically.
- A comprehensive understanding of the performance of the practice was maintained
- A programme of continuous clinical and internal audit was used to monitor quality and to make improvements.
- There were robust arrangements for identifying, recording and managing risks, issues and implementing mitigating actions.

Leadership and culture

On the day of inspection the partners in the practice demonstrated they had the experience, capacity and capability to run the practice and ensure high quality care. They told us they prioritised safe, high quality and compassionate care. Staff told us the partners were approachable and always took the time to listen to all members of staff.

The provider was aware of and had systems in place to ensure compliance with the requirements of the duty of candour. (The duty of candour is a set of specific legal requirements that providers of services must follow when things go wrong with care and treatment). This included

support training for all staff on communicating with patients about notifiable safety incidents. The partners encouraged a culture of openness and honesty. The practice had systems in place to ensure that when things went wrong with care and treatment:

- The practice gave affected people reasonable support, truthful information and a verbal and written apology
- The practice kept written records of verbal interactions as well as written correspondence.

There was a clear leadership structure in place and staff felt supported by management.

- Staff told us the practice held regular team meetings.
- Staff told us there was an open culture within the practice and they had the opportunity to raise any issues at team meetings and felt confident and supported in doing so.
- Staff said they felt respected, valued and supported, particularly by the partners in the practice. All staff were involved in discussions about how to run and develop the practice, and the partners encouraged all members of staff to identify opportunities to improve the service delivered by the practice.

Seeking and acting on feedback from patients, the public and staff

The practice encouraged and valued feedback from patients, the public and staff. It proactively sought patients' feedback and engaged patients in the delivery of the service.

- The practice had gathered feedback from patients through the patient participation group (PPG) and through surveys and complaints received. The PPG met regularly, and submitted proposals for improvements to the practice management team. For example, they worked together with the practice to develop close links with local community groups for health promotion and awareness.
- The practice had gathered feedback from staff through staff meetings, appraisals and discussion. Staff told us they would not hesitate to give feedback and discuss any concerns or issues with colleagues and management. Staff told us they felt involved and engaged to improve how the practice was run.

Are services well-led?

Good 

(for example, are they well-managed and do senior leaders listen, learn and take appropriate action)

Continuous improvement

There was a focus on continuous learning and improvement at all levels within the practice. The practice team was forward thinking and part of local pilot schemes

to improve outcomes for patients in the area. Such as the work they undertook with local community groups to increase their awareness of primary care access and support.