**Associate Designated Medical Officer and Designated Clinical Officer**

Each Clinical Commissioning Group should provide a Designated Medical Officer (DMO) or Designated Clinical Officer (DCO) for SEND. The DCO/DMO plays a key role in implementing and embedding the SEND reforms and in supporting joined up working between health services, local authorities and other SEND partners.

Vale of York CCG have opted for a hybrid model of Associate DCO (ADCO) and a DMO for special educational needs and disability (SEND). Louise Wootton is the ADCO and Dr Sally Smith, who is a consultant paediatrician at York Hospital, is the DMO. The purpose of these roles is to support health colleagues across the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and the local health providers to ensure children and young people 0-25 with SEND have the right health support to achieve the best outcomes they possibly can. The DCO role is a key element in supporting the Health Service in its implementation of the Children’s and Families Act 2014.

The DCO/DMO role is varied and includes:
•    Oversight from a health perspective of education, health and care panels to discuss which children go forward for assessments and then if required have a formal plan (EHCP)
•    Supporting health professionals to contribute to the Education, Health and Care Plan process
•    Working with others in the local area to improve the quality of Education, Health and Care Plans.
•    Supporting the SEND team at the local authority with questions and queries
•    Promoting links between the SEND team, education professionals, social care and health services
•    Supporting the commissioners and senior leadership team with regards to meeting and assuring the SEND health requirements
•    Working alongside commissioners and stakeholders across health , education and social care  and in joint partnership with children and young people, parents and carers to identify , contribute and deliver on  strategic work programmes that improve our local systems
•    Ensuring we can evidence a good local offer of health services and clear health journeys for those age 0-25 with SEND
If you would like more information, please email voyccg.send-ehcp@nhs.net