

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

### A DECLARATION OF JOINT WORKING BETWEEN

Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust and ASTRAZENECA UK Limited

Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust and AstraZeneca Ltd are engaged in a Joint Working Project entitled, "Improving management of severe asthma in North-West London (NWL) through Trust- Primary Care Networks (PCN) joint working model of virtual multi-disciplinary patient review".

#### **Summary of the project:**

Asthma is a chronic disorder of the airways, caused primarily by inflammatory processes and constriction of the smooth muscle in airway walls. Symptoms include recurrent episodes of wheezing, breathlessness, chest tightness and coughing. Severe asthma is a specific type of asthma which is difficult to control, even with optimised inhaled asthma medication. Typically, severe asthma patients face a substantial burden of illness and require a significant amount of health resource. Over 5.4 million people have a diagnosis of asthma in the UK of which 1.1 million are children and 4.3 million are adults (Asthma UK – Severe Asthma Report, 2018). Statistics released from Asthma UK show that over 120,000 asthma sufferers in the UK are at risk from wrongly prescribed medication and NICE findings in studies of adults diagnosed with asthma suggest that up to 30% do not have clear evidence of asthma with other studies suggesting that asthma may be underdiagnosed in some cases. As a consequence, people could potentially be on medications that they do not need or not receiving the medication they require to control their symptoms. A Joint Working agreement between AstraZeneca and Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust respiratory clinical leads and an Ealing PCN (North Southall PCN), aims to deliver a local pilot project focusing on optimising pathways that help with early identification of people with uncontrolled asthma, appropriate referral of patients needing further specialist secondary/tertiary care input and optimisation of current medicines or initiation of asthma biologics or other respiratory medicines. The model will be delivered by way of a virtual MDT between the North Southall PCN and the secondary care respiratory clinicians, with patient referral into secondary/tertiary care if required. The pilot project will be facilitated by Imperial College Health Partners as part of the AAC RUP programme (as the NWL Academic Health Science Network).

#### **The Aims and objectives of the project are;**

The aim of project is to:

- Improve the identification and management of severe asthma patients, utilising the PCN pharmacists and nurses to identify cases for discussion from their clinic caseload for virtual MDT discussion.
- Establish a more efficient triage process into secondary or tertiary care through patient prioritisation/risk stratification and reduce inequalities in care standards and access.
- Improve integrated cross-sector working and asthma management
- Provide intelligence to support piloting of this model in additional sites, with a view to scaling to achieve NW London pathway improvement.

#### **Timeframes**

The project will run from November 2022 to April 2023. Both parties have contributed resources to the initiative