

Diffusion of knowledge and innovation in health systems: Advice and collaboration networks among Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs)

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Background and aim of the study

Knowledge networks in healthcare are imperative in developing new clinical practices and diffusing healthcare innovation. Previous studies have shown that effective knowledge sharing in organisations and communities of practice can have a positive effect on the rate of innovation output as well as bring efficiency gains.

In this study we aim to explore how knowledge is being shared and managed amongst healthcare networks in order for General Practitioners (GPs) to make effective commissioning decisions. These decisions are often time-consuming and demand particular knowledge and competencies that need to be acquired over time. For that reason clinicians seek advice and collaborations with various parties (e.g. Local Health Administration, Local Authorities, PCTs, Community Providers, and other CCG Board members) in order to develop their commissioning activities.

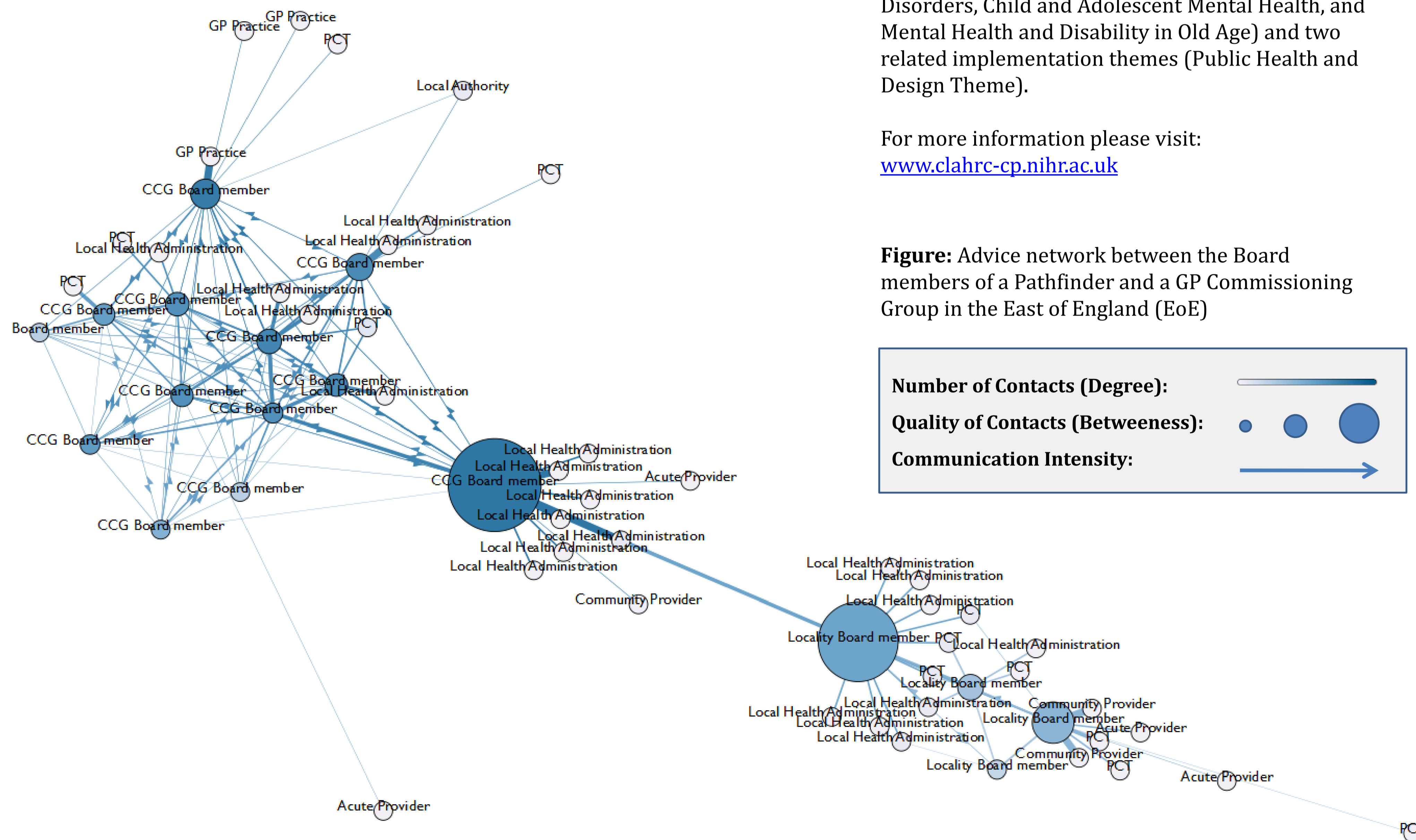
The recent NHS reform and latest developments in healthcare provide a unique opportunity to investigate the formation of networks and their importance in creating commissioning capacity in the newly formed CCGs.

Method

In Summer 2011, we carried out a survey on the advice and collaboration networks of CCG Executive Board members. In addition we interviewed GP Commissioners and observed Board meetings in order to understand how decisions are being made, and how data, information, and knowledge is being diffused and put into practice.

Expected contributions

- Better understand the **orchestration processes** that coordinate and influence organisations and individuals in healthcare innovation networks.
- Try to identify how network **brokers** mobilize knowledge from different parts of the network and across organisational boundaries in order to connect existing ideas with potential commissioning issues and encourage innovation activities.



CLAHRC

The Collaboration for Leadership in Applied Health Research and Care for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough (CLAHRC CP) is funded by the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) and is a collaborative partnership between the University of Cambridge and a consortium of NHS and Social Service organisations.

The CLAHRC CP has three main research themes (Adult Disorders, Child and Adolescent Mental Health, and Mental Health and Disability in Old Age) and two related implementation themes (Public Health and Design Theme).

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Figure: Advice network between the Board members of a Pathfinder and a GP Commissioning Group in the East of England (EoE)