

Service for diabetics prospering

DIABETES patients have received a “dramatically improved” level of care since the launch of a service in Colchester and Tendring.

Over the past two years, 4,000 more patients are receiving the eight recommended health checks from their GP.

Figures from the Independent National Diabetes Audit show 50.5 per cent of people with type 1 diabetes and 67.9 per cent of people with type 2 are receiving all eight health checks, exceeding the national averages of 39.6 per cent and 59 per cent respectively.

The North East Essex Diabetes Service, launched in 2013, provides a specialist team that supports GP practices by providing more services in a local setting, reducing the need for hospital visits.

Patients are encouraged to develop

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their awareness of diabetes and feel more in control of the condition.

The team is led by a consultant and community clinics are held in Clacton, Colchester and Harwich.

Sam Hepplewhite, chief officer at North East Essex Clinical Commissioning Group, said: “We welcome the news that the service we commissioned in 2013 has delivered such excellent results.

“The move to a streamlined service including a community based team has made a substantial improvement in how patients receive treatment.

“The service is providing excellent care and we look forward to the continued success of the service with further improvements in care for the patients of North East Essex.”