

## **Knowing your Integrated Care System (ICS) from your Primary Care Network (PCN)!**

### ***Primary Care Network (PCN)***

PCNs are groups of general practices joining together in a local area to work collaboratively across the practices and with community service providers and other health and care organisations, including community pharmacies. The NHS Long Term Plan said all general practices are required to be in a network by June 2019. PCNs will generally be formed around natural communities based on GP registered lists, serving populations of around 30,000 to 50,000 patients. The networks will have expanded neighbourhood teams which will comprise a range of staff such as GPs, pharmacists, district nurses, community geriatricians, dementia workers and Allied Health Professionals such as physiotherapists and podiatrists/chiropractors, joined by social care and the voluntary sector. Working in this way is not new for all practices; PCNs as a concept have been growing in recent years, starting with the National Association of Primary Care's Primary Care Home model.

### ***Where does pharmacy fit in?***

It is important that community pharmacy teams are fully engaged in the work of PCNs, to optimise their provision of services to patients and because the future development of services will be driven locally by PCNs. Community Pharmacy West Yorkshire will be working to try to get community pharmacy teams fully engaged in PCNs, in many cases with a local community pharmacist acting as a lead for the sector in each PCN. Community Pharmacy West Yorkshire will need the support of pharmacy contractors and their teams to make this happen.

### ***What is the Difference between Community Partnerships (CP) / Local Care Partnerships (LCP) and Primary Care Networks (PCN)?***

GPs in Leeds and Bradford have for some time been working in groups called Community Partnerships (CPs) or Local Care Partnerships (LCPs). In many ways, these are similar in size (50,000 patients), structure and geography to the newly created PCNs. CPs and LCPs will continue in their current formats running alongside the PCNs. Community pharmacy will engage with and support the work of PCNs through the CP / LCP.

### ***Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG)***

Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) are statutory NHS bodies responsible for planning and commissioning local health services, according to NHS Clinical Commissioners. They are grouped geographically (for example, one county could house several CCGs) and there are 191 of them as of April 2019. CCGs are membership bodies made up primarily of local GPs, although other local healthcare professionals – including pharmacists – often sit on their elected governing body along with member GPs and lay members.

### ***Where does community pharmacy fit in?***

As stated above, pharmacists can sit on the leadership boards of CCGs. However, as CCGs are responsible for roughly two thirds of the NHS England budget, you are probably most familiar with them for their role in funding local healthcare services. For example, community pharmacies may receive funding from their CCG to provide locally commissioned services, reflecting the specific needs of the population they serve.

### ***Sustainability and Transformation Partnership (STP)***

Announced in 2015, the 44 STPs cover every area in England. According to NHS England, they were created to bring local councils and NHS organisations together to plan for the long-term needs of their communities. The specifics of what each STP focusses on therefore depends on the particular needs of the population they cover.

### ***Where does community pharmacy fit in?***

STPs are designed to bring local care providers and commissioners together, so community pharmacy has been involved in the STP. In West Yorkshire our STP is now an Integrated Care System (ICS).

### ***Integrated Care System (ICS)***

ICSs are basically more advanced versions of STPs. In fact, a number of STPs have already become ICSs and NHS England expects that all STPs will have done the same by April 2021. The difference between STPs and ICSs is that the latter involves even more collaboration between different stakeholders.

According to NHS England, 'In an integrated care system, NHS organisations, in partnership with local councils and others, take collective responsibility for managing resources, delivering NHS standards, and improving the health of the population they serve.'

West Yorkshire and Harrogate Health and Care partnership is the ICS for West Yorkshire and Harrogate and their website can be accessed: <https://www.wyhpartnership.co.uk/>.

### ***Where does community pharmacy fit in?***

See above under STPs. After all, collaboration is the name of the game in an ICS, so there is definitely a seat at the table for community pharmacy. Community pharmacy is involved in several of the West Yorkshire and Harrogate Health and Care Partnership programmes to ensure that there is a strong community pharmacy voice and input into the ICS.

Further Community Pharmacy West Yorkshire information on PCNs can be found here: <https://www.cpyw.org/pharmacy-contracts-services/primary-care-network/>