

Primary Care Network (PCN) – Chief Executive Officer Update

Have you heard of Primary Care Networks? If you haven't already then you certainly will over the next couple of years!

Primary Care Networks (PCNs) are an approach to strengthening and redesigning health and social care by bringing together a range of health and social care professionals to work together to provide enhanced personalised and preventative care for their local community. All sectors come together as a complete care community – drawn from GP surgeries, community, mental health and acute trusts, social care and the voluntary sector – to focus on local population needs and provide care closer to patients' homes. The vision is that PCNs will have aligned clinical and financial aims and a unified, capitated budget. The PCN will make joint decisions on how the funding is spent working towards a combined focus on personalisation of care with improvements in population health outcomes.



While this may sound a world away from the reality of today, there is much focus on PCNs both nationally (the NHS 10-year plan is full of references to PCNs) and within West Yorkshire where PCNs are seen as an integral part of the Integrated Care System of the future. Leeds, Bradford and Calderdale already have PCNs in place, with Wakefield and Kirklees rapidly looking to implement PCNs across their geography.

This NHS animation explains the PCNs and is a good place to start learning more about the vision for PCN: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W19DtEsc8Ys>.

It is essential that community pharmacy is part of any PCN and to ensure that there is a clear community pharmacy voice in each and every PCN - after all, community pharmacy is an essential part of Primary Care. If we are not part of the PCN there is the strong possibility that the system will evolve without community pharmacy and that opportunities to better use the skills of community pharmacy teams and for new commissioned services are lost. This would be a missed opportunity for community pharmacy but more importantly a missed opportunity for the patients within the PCN.

Pharmacy contractors in Leeds, Bradford and Calderdale will have recently received a letter from Community Pharmacy West Yorkshire providing an update on the community pharmacy leaders within the PCN which your pharmacy is aligned with. When we have further details from the Kirklees and Wakefield areas, we will write to contractors in these areas to provide you with an update too.

The team at Community Pharmacy West Yorkshire are working hard to identify and support community pharmacy representatives for PCNs. We see that this is key to the future of a strong, vibrant and integrated community pharmacy.

Further details about PCNs are available at the PSNC website [here](#). Local information is available on the Community Pharmacy West Yorkshire website [here](#).

I hope you found my update helpful.

Ruth Buchan FFRPS
Chief Executive Officer
Community Pharmacy West Yorkshire