

## Welcome

Last month, I mentioned the new national neighbourhood framework and how primary care features strongly in the future of integrated and personalised health services for our communities.

It's really encouraging to see the different disciplines of primary care getting to grips with what this means for them individually and collectively.

My optometry colleague, Dharmesh Patel – who is Chair of the Greater Manchester Optometry Provider Board (OPB) and Chief Executive Officer of Primary Eyecare Services – has written a [blog for the Health Service Journal](#).

He states that the neighbourhood framework metrics 'cannot be achieved unless optometry, community pharmacy, dentistry, audiology and the voluntary, community, faith and social enterprise (VCFSE) sector are embedded from the outset' along with general practice as the foundation stone of local care.

I had a [similar conversation](#) with Greater Manchester Mayor, Andy Burnham, when he visited a pharmacy in Oldham recently.

Community pharmacies develop trusted relationships with residents and, as such, can identify serious symptoms, escalate to urgent treatment and directly deliver daily support to vulnerable patients.

This was discussed in the context of the Greater Manchester Live Well model, which is truly gathering momentum. There is an update about Live Well funding in this bulletin, along with details of how primary care can get more involved with Live Well initiatives.

The PCB continues to work with the wider system to ensure that primary care not only works with the right people and organisations but also takes a leading role in the future of healthcare. I'm pleased to report that our relationships with the Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise sector (VCFSE) and other provider collaboratives are progressing.

No doubt we will talk about this when I join Dr Tracey Vell MBE, Chief Officer of the PCB, in a [panel discussion](#) at this year's NHS Confed Expo on 11 June, entitled 'The future or the end of primary care?'

It would be great to see you there, if you can make it. Held over two days at Manchester Central, [the event is free for NHS staff](#).

Finally, I must acknowledge the continuing impact NHS reform is having on colleagues at the ICB and offer my sincere thanks and best wishes to those who have left. NHS GM is losing many years of experience and knowledge as a result, and those who remain are now having to find their place in a new structure.

We will help and support colleagues in any way we can.

Please check our [website](#), [X](#) and [LinkedIn](#) pages for the latest PCB offers and updates.

If you have any comments or suggestions about this update, please let us know by emailing: [info.gmpcb@nhs.net](mailto:info.gmpcb@nhs.net)

Thank you,

**Luvjit Kandula**

**Chair, Greater Manchester Primary Care Provider Board**

Twitter: [@luvjitkandula](#)

## PCB news

### **[Meet the Optometry Excellence team](#)**

The Optometry Excellence Programme is helping to develop colleagues across more than 300 optometry practices in Greater Manchester.

Our [introduction to the team](#) provides an overview of how they can support you.

You can also join them at a [CPD conference](#) on Sunday, 17 May – there are a few tickets left.

### **[Community pharmacy technician apprenticeships](#)**

Following the launch of the Community Pharmacy Technician Apprenticeship Programme 2026, some [online engagement sessions](#) are scheduled to provide more information about the funding offer.

### **[GP contract webinar](#)**

There's still time to sign up for the [GP Excellence webinar](#) on how to navigate the GP contract 2026/27.

Join us on Wednesday, 29 April from 2pm to 3.30pm.

### **[Sign up for training that's 'highly commended'](#)**

Colleagues from all disciplines of primary care can benefit from the PCB's [Being Well: Leadership Training Programme](#), starting in June.

Based on a highly commended national programme, the PCB has adapted the content specifically for primary care providers.

### **[Manchester practice features in national strategy](#)**

Urban Village Medical Practice has been recognised in the [Renewed Women's Strategy for England](#) for its healthcare services for vulnerable women.

A case study highlights [how it worked with secondary care teams](#) to identify and treat women with syphilis.

### **Podcast tackles the issue of dismissing women in healthcare**

The latest [podcast from Primary Care Knowledge Boost](#) highlights the issue of women being dismissed in healthcare, and includes tips on how to improve listening skills.

### **Bitesize digital training on the effective use of MS Teams**

Our latest bitesize digital training video shows how Cornbrook Medical Practice adopted an effective MS Teams environment, with tips for you to try in your workplace. This is the third video in the [bitesize digital training series](#), which you can find on the [PCB YouTube channel](#) and on the website, on the [GP Excellence webinars page](#).

### **Latest research opportunities for primary care**

The [latest research opportunities](#) from the National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR) North West Research Delivery Network (RRDN) are available, along with information about two new e-learning modules.

There's also a [survey](#) you can take part in, on delivering diabetes care.

### **Webinar on the results of a research project about physical activity**

The [NIHR Policy Research Unit in Healthy Ageing](#) has collaborated with Healthy Weight colleagues to deliver a [free webinar on Wednesday, 6 May](#).

The webinar will discuss the units' joint research project on how the General Practice Physical Activity Questionnaire (GPPAQ) is used in primary care settings.

### **New Live Well funding**

Greater Manchester Combined Authority and NHS Greater Manchester have confirmed continued Live Well Implementation Support Funding of £10m across all localities in 2026/27, with a commitment to sustain funding through to 2028/29.

A [letter](#) has been sent to place leads, local authority chief executives and [Live Well](#) portfolio holders, and locality board chairs.

In addition, [general practice can now access funding](#) directly to support the delivery of Live Well, via BeCoRR.

A new [toolkit](#) will help guide practices and PCNs.

### **Social prescribing report 2026**

Greater Manchester Integrated Care Partnership has shared its new report '[Social Prescribing in Greater Manchester: Progress, Insights and Next Steps](#)'.

The report brings together where social prescribing is now, what's working well across Greater Manchester, and the main challenges and opportunities ahead.

### **Cyber resilience pilot**

NHS England is inviting primary care organisations to take part in a new cyber resilience pilot, working with the National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC).

The free pilot is built around the [NCSC Cyber Action Toolkit](#) and [Small Business Guide](#). It offers free, practical support to help organisations protect themselves against everyday cyber risks – without needing technical expertise.

To apply, please email [chan.maher@nhs.net](mailto:chan.maher@nhs.net) by Thursday, 28 May, with your organisation's name and a main contact name and email address.

The pilot is expected to start mid-June.

### **Partnership updates**

You can read about NHS GM's new operating model and plans for a new Chair, following Sir Ricard Leese's retirement in June, in the latest edition of the [Greater Manchester Integrated Care Partnership stakeholder bulletin](#).

There are also new updates in the [Greater Manchester Care Record \(GMCR\) newsletter](#), including a blog by PCB chair, Luvjit Kandula, about how community pharmacies are using GMCR.

### Events page

Our [events page](#) features a range of webinars, conferences and training offers relevant to the primary care workforce.

The calendar can be altered to view week by week, by month or in list form (agenda) according to your preference by using the tabs.

## Find out more...



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