

Welcome

If you're a keen follower of our news updates, you'll have heard that I am the new chair of Greater Manchester Primary Care Provider Board (GMPCB).

I'm Don McGrath, and I'm an experienced dentist and leader, having served the communities of Greater Manchester for more than 35 years.

I am also chair of the Greater Manchester Dental Provider Board (DPB), which has enabled me to play an integral part in representing primary care at system and national levels since GMPCB was launched 10 years ago.

I am taking over the role of PCB chair from Luvjit Kandula, whose tenure comes to an end after three years in post. She will now serve as vice chair, along with my GP colleague Dr Tim Dalton.

You can read the full update in this month's newsletter, but I want to stress that I consider this to be a great privilege and a significant responsibility.

This marks a significant point in PCB history, as representatives from all four disciplines of primary care hold senior leadership positions on the board. This also includes Dharmesh Patel, optometrist, who is chair of the GMPCB finance committee.

To add to this momentous period, Dr Tracey Vell MBE announced her intention to retire from the NHS and as PCB chief officer at the end of September.

Rest assured, we are committed to our responsibilities as the collective voice of primary care in Greater Manchester and, personally, I am committed to working collaboratively with colleagues across all of primary care, the wider NHS, local government, community organisations and, most importantly, with the people and communities we serve.

Incidentally, primary care as a whole is performing well, according to the 2026 GP Patient Survey results.

The survey shows that 79 per cent of patients had a good overall experience of their GP practice, 74 per cent with their NHS dentist and 89 per cent with community pharmacy. NHS Greater Manchester has a more in-depth update in their July newsletter, included below.

Please continue to keep in touch with all PCB offers and updates by visiting our [website](#), [X](#) and [LinkedIn](#) pages.

And, if you have any comments or suggestions about this update, please let us know by emailing: info.gmpcb@nhs.net

Thank you,

Don McGrath

Chair, Greater Manchester Primary Care Provider Board

PCB news

Leadership changes for Primary Care Provider Board

Welcome to the new chair of GMPCB, Don McGrath!

You can [read about the recent changes](#) to PCB board leadership in our full update on the website.

Chief officer announces her plans to retire

Dr Tracey Vell MBE, Chief Officer of GMPCB, [reflects on a 40-year legacy](#) as she announces her intention to retire at the end of September.

Read Tracey's blog on neighbourhoods

In case you missed it on our LinkedIn channels, Chief Officer Tracey Vell has written a blog about neighbourhoods and meaningful collaboration: [The NHS isn't working – are neighbourhoods the answer?](#)

Introducing the PCB team

We've made some updates to the PCB website, to include [an overview of our team](#) and how to contact them.

Our senior management team (SMT) is made up of clinical and senior management staff, and they're responsible for the oversight of GMPCB responsibilities.

The delivery team includes experienced health and care professionals, responsible for designing and delivering the many PCB programmes.

Special care dentistry webinar

Dental colleagues working for an NHS dental practice within Greater Manchester can benefit from a [recent webinar on special care dentistry](#).

The recorded session was funded by Greater Manchester Dental Provider Board (DPB) and was developed and delivered by colleagues working in GM specifically for our dental practices.

It explores the reasonable adjustments and practical steps that dental services may take when providing care to patients with dementia, learning disabilities, autism, and complex medical conditions.

Financial incentive for dental research participation

Dentists, therapists, hygienists and nurses are invited to share their views on a study called Restart Smiling: Integrating Oral Health within Multiple Long-Term Conditions Care Coordination.

The study, which runs until the end of September, looks at how to support adults with multiple long-term conditions in looking after their oral health and access to dental care. Participants will be remunerated for their contribution. [More details about the study and who to contact are included in this flyer.](#)

Dental CQC-compliance webinar available

The final recording in a series of webinars aimed at supporting dental practices to be compliant with Care Quality Commission (CQC) requirements is now available to watch again on the [PCB website](#) and [YouTube](#).

Expert Pat Langley highlights some of the key insights from previous sessions.

Final CQC-compliance webinar for general practice

General practice colleagues have also benefited from a series of webinars, delivered in partnership with Salford, Stockport and Trafford Local Medical Committee (LMC).

The final session, aimed at helping practices to be CQC-ready, is now available on the [PCB website](#) and [YouTube](#) and includes insight from recently inspected practices.

Funded Level 6 apprenticeship opportunity

[Damar Training](#) is launching a new Level 6 Service Designer Apprenticeship for general practice.

This opportunity is open to GM managers working in general practice.

For more information, [read the programme overview](#) and [submit the enquiry form](#) before Friday 28th August.

What's happening in the world of research?

We've got the latest [research opportunities and updates](#) from the National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR) North West Research Delivery Network (RRDN).

Partnership updates

You can catch up on news from the wider system in the August edition of the [Greater Manchester Integrated Care Partnership stakeholder bulletin](#), the latest edition of the [GM Live Well newsletter](#), and the [Greater Manchester Care Record \(GMCR\) update](#).

Events page

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

Looking ahead to September, you'll find details of Responding Well To Conflict training sessions for frontline staff and managers, and our Being Well Leadership Development Programme.

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.

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