

Welcome

Doesn't it make a difference to your mood knowing that spring is just around the corner and the nights are getting lighter?

As we enter the season of new beginnings, we have plenty to look forward to and celebrate, which brings me directly to the Greater Manchester Primary Care Summit 2024 which will be held on Thursday 21 March.

I'm pleased to see that many of you have already reserved your place for either the [morning](#) or [afternoon](#) session, and I would urge you [book now](#) if you haven't done already.

Places are filling up fast and we have released more detail about the day, which promises to be filled with tools, support and examples of how you can kickstart your journey to deliver the GM Primary Care Blueprint. It's a fantastic opportunity to network with colleagues across all four disciplines of primary care and also meet the blueprint delivery team.

Last month I mentioned the launch of the Pharmacy First service and since then we have updated the PCB website with resources for general practice. The page will be continuously updated, so please check it regularly – details are in the bulletin below.

Pharmacy teams have worked hard to get ready to deliver this service and more than 600 pharmacists have attended face-to-face clinical training.

We also have news about the Optometry Excellence programme which is developing nicely. The Pharmacy Excellence programme has now been finalised and will support community pharmacy teams to optimise operations, with the aim of releasing capacity to deliver high quality clinical services.

The PCB is currently involved in researching and developing a new Freedom to Speak Up Guardians programme, and an appropriate Occupational Health service for primary care. There's a brief overview in this month's bulletin, and we'll provide more updates when we get them.

We will also post on our website soon about the PCB's leadership programme for PCN Clinical Directors and managers, so watch this space. This has proved to be a valuable development of up to 60 leaders in general practice. You may have seen the cohort on our social channels recently when they took part in an in-person learning session as part of the programme.

Don't forget that the PCB social channels ([X](#) and [LinkedIn](#)) and our [website](#) are the first places to find out about our news, as well as some partner content you may find interesting.

As ever, primary care and the work we do via the PCB keeps us extremely busy and we are doing our best to keep you informed, as well as raising our collective profile and issues that are impacting primary care where it matters.

We're often invited to speak at events and conferences, and Janet Crofts, managing director at the PCB, took part in a panel discussion at the NHS Confederation Primary Care Conference this week.

The discussion focused on the value of primary care collaboration in health and care systems, working at scale and alongside hospital and community services – so thanks to Janet for flying the flag for the PCB!

I also had the opportunity to attend the Labour party healthcare leaders' summit earlier this year which provided us the opportunity to briefly speak with Keir Starmer about the critical role of primary care and the need for its future investment.

I hope you enjoy reading the rest of this bulletin and if you have any comments or suggestions, please let us know by emailing: info.gmpcb@nhs.net

Thank you,

Luvjit Kandula

Chair, Greater Manchester Primary Care Provider Board

Twitter: [@luvjitkandula](https://twitter.com/luvjitkandula)

PCB news

Primary care summit

Places are filling up fast for the GM Primary Care Summit on Thursday 21 March. Kickstart your journey on delivering the Blueprint and make sure you've [booked your place](#). We've created a [dedicated webpage](#) on the Blueprint and the event, so please check regularly for updates.

Digital First Primary Care webinars

Digital First Primary Care (DFPC) is running a series of webinars for GP practices. ['GP Website – Improving your Digital Front Door'](#) will focus on how general practice websites can play a key role in promoting patient engagement and serve as the 'digital front door' to GP services.

['Understanding and Promoting the NHS App'](#) will focus on the features and functions of the NHS App and how they can be best used in practice.

You can [read about an event](#) where the DFPC team presented updates on their work as part the Advancing Quality Alliance (Aqua) Digital First Academy.

Optometry Excellence

Progress is being made on developing a new [Greater Manchester Optometry Excellence programme](#).

The programme will be rolled out to the workforce throughout 2024.

Weekly winter briefings

NHS GM is continuing to produce a [weekly winter briefing](#) for stakeholders. All briefings are published on the [news section](#) of our website.

Primary care campaigns

Several NHS GM measles resources are now available to download from the [campaigns page](#) of their website. The [measles page](#) has also been refreshed to include the latest information about cases, signs and symptoms and the MMR vaccination. NHS GM is currently working on developing videos in community languages which they hope to circulate soon. A [North-West Q&A](#) is also available which includes a regional quote from Dr Linda Charles-Ozuzu, Regional Director of Commissioning, NHSE NW, that you can use in your local communications.

Phase two of the NHS GM Protect and Prevent campaign focuses on flu vaccination. The [updated toolkit](#) includes suggested wording to use on your own websites and social media channels. The campaign will run until the end of March.

Latest podcasts

The latest podcasts by the Primary Care Knowledge Boost (PCKB) focus on [polypharmacy](#) and the launch of an [MSK mini-series on back pain](#).

More on the polypharmacy programme can be found on the [Health Innovation Manchester website](#).

Pharmacy First resources

We have updated the PCB website with information about the Pharmacy First service, following its launch on 31 January.

The new [Pharmacy First page](#) includes resources for general practice and the clinical pathways for the service.

We've also made some updates to the [community pharmacy advanced services](#) page.

Deadline for the GM Health and Care Champion Awards

The deadline for nominations in the [Greater Manchester Health and Care Champion Awards](#) is 15 March.

There's lots of categories to nominate your champion for, including learner of the year, employer of the year and equalities champion. The awards are open to all primary care colleagues.

Freedom to Speak Up Guardians

Greater Manchester Primary Care Provider Board (PCB) and NHS Greater Manchester are [reviewing the provision of Freedom to Speak Up Guardians](#) across all aspects of primary care.

The results of a survey, which closes on 29 February, will help to shape an appropriate programme for primary care and the wider integrated system.

Support offers for general practice and PCNs

[National support offers](#) from the General Practice Improvement Programme (GPIP) are available to view on the PCB website.

The latest offers run until March.

Hosting a trainee pharmacist

PCNs and practices have been invited to [apply to host a trainee pharmacist](#) before 1 March.

If successful, placements will cover the period 2025/26.

Review of Occupational Health services

A [review of Occupational Health services](#) across primary care providers is being carried out by Greater Manchester Primary Care Provider Board (PCB) and NHS Greater Manchester.

Practice managers, workforce leads and HR managers from all four disciplines were asked to complete a short survey during February.

The results will help us to ensure consistent and accessible provision for staff across community pharmacy, dentistry, general practice and optometry.

Social prescribing for children and young people

An [online learning event](#) to help PCNs understand social prescribing for children and young people will be held on 18 March.

A [guide](#) published by the National Academy for Social Prescribing explains how PCNs can use ARRS funding to recruit specialist link workers that work with young people.

GM Care Record updates

The latest [GM Care Record stakeholder newsletter](#) is now available, including updates on community pharmacy access to the record and a new data sharing campaign.

Clinical research updates

The National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR) Clinical Research Network (CRN) Greater Manchester has updated its [research offers for primary care](#), and invites you to [two open events](#) over the next couple of months – a showcase of 2023/24 research projects and a CRN meeting for primary care.

GM resilience hub

The Greater Manchester Resilience Hub, which provides a wellbeing service for health and care staff, is currently undergoing a review and therefore unable to accept new referrals for individual support.

If you currently receive support, this will not change and your support will continue. If you are on their waiting list (referred before 31 December 2023) you will be contacted as soon as an appointment is available.

Events page

Don't forget to check our [events page](#) for 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.

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