

Welcome

As you all know, winter can be a gruelling time for primary care and I'm sure you are all feeling the effects already.

The focus of many meetings and discussions at PCB and system level are around how we can best support colleagues throughout this period.

You may be aware of the plan to introduce surge hubs in each locality to help all disciplines of primary care to provide the right care, with the right clinician, at the right time over the winter months.

These hubs are expected to be in place very soon and I'm pleased to say that your PCB has been involved in the developments on behalf of community pharmacy, dentistry, general practice and optometry.

We are also raising awareness of other pressures and challenges on behalf of all primary care by providing regular updates to the system and we continue to develop the primary care sit-rep tool which launched in September. We do this with the aim of ensuring the correct support is in place for primary care colleagues, which includes practical as well as [health and wellbeing support](#).

In this update you'll find more good news, namely the success of some recent PCB events – aimed at supporting colleagues in targeted areas of their work – also, the announcement of the new Pharmacy First service, and a number of campaigns aimed at helping the public to understand how primary care works and how to get the right help when needed.

I'd also like to thank everyone who has supported the PCB and its work to date, by either reading this newsletter, following us on social media, visiting our website or attending the training and events provided. We know it takes time to engage with these things, but over the past few months we've seen a real increase in the number of colleagues interacting with our channels.

It's heartwarming and encouraging to know that you value what we're trying to do!

If you have any comments or suggestions about this update, 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

Pharmacy First launch

From 1 December a new Pharmacy Contraception Service and Hypertension Case-Finding Service (NHS blood pressure check) will be introduced to pharmacies. Plus, treatment for seven common conditions under the new [Pharmacy First Service](#) will be launched on 31 January.

Another great PCN Development Programme event

The third event as part of the [PCN Development Programme](#) provided an opportunity for colleagues to network and learn from each other, when they met at The Studio on 2 November.

Topics included 'enhanced access', 'QI for PCNs' and 'PCN incorporation'.

Could you benefit from clinical research?

If you attended the PCN Development Day, you may have heard the presentation by the National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR) Clinical Research Network (CRN) Greater Manchester.

They offer a range of opportunities to get involved in clinical research. Read [our update](#) or listen to their recent [Primary Care Knowledge Boost podcast](#).

Latest podcasts

As well as the NIHR podcast mentioned above, the [resource section](#) of our website has the latest Primary Care Knowledge Boost (PCKB) podcasts available to download.

This month's collection includes [Dentistry as part of primary care](#) and [Sustainability in general practice](#).

Proactive Care progress

The [Proactive Care Programme for PCNs](#) is in full swing, with a series of workshops, webinars and even a visit to a GM health hub.

The programme is designed to help PCNs improve patient outcomes and ultimately reduce demand on primary and secondary care.

Training opportunities

An opportunity to gain an [accredited qualification in violence prevention and reduction](#) is available to people working in primary care settings. Dates are available in January and February 2024 with the Royal Society for Public Health (RSPH), commissioned by NHS England.

Get ready for GP Awards

We'd like to congratulate those who have been shortlisted for the [General Practice Awards 2023](#) on 8 December. Good luck GM primary care!

Primary care campaigns

There are currently a number of live NHS GM campaigns which are aimed at supporting primary care. As a PCB, we are routinely consulted on campaigns and asked to provide feedback to ensure they are co-produced with a primary care focus and input.

The [Get To Know Where To Go \(GTKWTG\) campaign](#) is aimed at helping patients to know where to get help over the winter period. An updated version for December will be shared soon.

Phase two of the [Who's who at your GP practice](#) campaign has just been released and features more health and care professionals from GP practices. Like phase one, the aim is to raise awareness of the new roles supported by ARRS (Additional Roles Reimbursement Scheme) and highlight how they can support patients.

There is also a toolkit which features a [range of mental health support](#), promoted via different campaigns, including SilverCloud, Kooth and Qwell for young people, and Shining a Light on Suicide.

If you can, please support by posting on your patient-facing channels.

Is your practice veteran friendly?

Remembrance Day may have passed but you can still become a [veteran friendly practice](#). We're aiming for at least one GP practice from every PCN to become veteran friendly to ensure your veteran patients receive the best possible healthcare for their specific needs.

Targeted health and wellbeing support

GP practices have been receiving support to meet the requirements of the Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF) Quality Improvement (QI) workforce wellbeing module, via the PCB's [health and wellbeing programme](#).

If your practice would benefit from some guidance, please get in touch.

News from GM Care Record

A stakeholder brief featuring [updates on the Greater Manchester Care Record](#) has been relaunched. If you're interested in receiving their updates directly, please [subscribe](#) to the newsletter.

Blueprint in the news

Since the GM Primary Care Blueprint was launched last month there has been some media interest from industry press. Look out for interviews with Tracey Vell, Chief Officer, Greater Manchester Primary Care Provider Board, and Rob Bellingham, Director of Primary Care and Strategic Commissioning, NHS GM, in Pulse and Optometry Today.

Dates for your diary...

The next [Greater Manchester Medicines Optimisation Community of Practice](#) (CoP) event takes place virtually on Thursday, 18 January 2024, from 11am to 1pm.

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.

Find out more...



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