

**25 February, 2020**

**7**

**Primary Care Network Update**

**Ward(s):** All

**1. Aim**

The NHS Long Term Plan set out the case for enhanced primary medical and community care, backed by an extra £4.5bn a year by 2023/24. The Long Term Plan reinforced the role general practice needs to play to deliver the aspirations of the plan.

The BMA and NHS England consequently negotiated a five-year framework for general practice to support the implementation of the plan. As well as significant increases in practice level funding the new contract delivers a fundamental change to primary care through the establishment of primary care networks (PCN).

Primary care networks will become an essential building block of every Integrated Care System. The concept is intended to dissolve the historic divide between primary and community health services. PCNs *are about provision not commissioning*, and are not new organisations

Primary care networks will build on the core of current primary care services and enable greater provision of proactive, personalised, coordinated and more integrated health and social care. They can be described as moving from a system of reactively providing appointments to proactively providing care for the people and communities they serve

A new national Network Contract Directed Enhanced Service (DES) went live in July 2019 and every practice in Walsall joined a PCN and participated in the DES. Under the DES general practice takes the leading role in every PCN. This will mean much closer working between PCNs and their ICS (Walsall Together), not just the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG).

At the outset it was recommended that a Primary Care Network would typically serve a population of at least 30,000 people and would not tend to exceed 50,000 people. A clinical director would lead each PCN and funding was made available to support the establishment of these roles

The configuration of the 7 PCNs in Walsall is shown below

<b>PCN</b>	<b>PCN GP Lead</b>	<b>PCN Total List Size @ Jan 2019</b>	<b>No. GP Practices in PCN</b>
North	Dr Nasir Asghar	51235	10
South 1	Dr Riaz Ahmed	43006	9
South 2	Dr Ryan Hobson	40158	6
East 1	Dr Sandeep Kaul	32951	8
East 2	Dr Francois Bolliger	42447	5
West 1	Dr Ravinder Sandhu	32178	6
West 2	Dr Shadia Abdalla	46157	8
<b>7 PCNs</b>	<b>Total Population @ Jan 2019</b>	<b>288132</b>	<b>Total 52 GP Practices</b>

## **2. Recommendations**

To note the update

## **3. PCNs**

- 3.1 The Network Contract DES is an extension of the core GP contract, not a separate contract.
- 3.2 The first year of the Network DES is a development year, focused on PCNs getting set up, maturing, recruiting additional roles, and being ready for delivering the new national service specifications. A national consultation was launched in December on the specifications
- 3.3 The PCNs across Walsall have commenced a programme of development, they have recruited seven clinical pharmacists and have advertised for the social prescriber posts.
- 3.4 NHS England issued an updated GP Contract Agreement on 6 February 2020 following the following consultation in December on the Network Contract service specifications. This has led to some significant changes which will now be discussed with Walsall PCNs

The Additional Roles Reimbursement Scheme has been enhanced to include six more roles, taking the total number of roles in 2020/21 to ten. PCNs can choose from pharmacy technicians, care coordinators, health coaches, dieticians,

podiatrists and occupational therapists in addition to clinical pharmacists, social prescribing link workers, physician associates, first contact physiotherapists. Mental health professionals and paramedics will be added in 2021.

All of the additional roles will be 100% reimbursable by the NHS from April 2020.

PCNs have been asked to take immediate steps to recruit with additional support from the CCG. .

### 3.5 PCN Service Specifications.

It was expected that five services would be introduced on a phased approach in 2020/21.

- Structured Medication Review and Optimisation
- Enhanced Health in Care Homes
- Anticipatory Care
- Personalised Care
- Supporting Early Cancer Diagnosis

With a further two introduced in 2021/22:

- CVD Diagnosis and Prevention
- Health Inequalities.

Following the consultation three service specifications for 2020/21 have been re-written: Structured Medication Reviews, Enhanced Healthcare in Care Homes, and Supporting Early Cancer Diagnosis. Two of the five services specifications are now deferred until 2021/22: Anticipatory Care and Personalised Care.

## 4. ***Financial information***

- 4.1 The contract increases investment and more certainty around funding and looks to reduce pressure and stabilise general practice. It will ensure general practice plays a leading role in every Primary Care Network (PCN) which will include bigger teams of health professionals working together in local communities.
- 4.2 A Network Investment and Impact Fund (IIF) will be introduced during 2020/21 to complement service requirements. Nationally this is worth £40.5m in 2020/21. This will operate in a similar way to QOF. Funding received should be used for investment in workforce or services and this can be deployed at practice level
- 4.3 The IIF was expected to provide additional funding to PCNs which go further and faster to deliver the national service specifications and provide an incentive for PCNs to reduce unwarranted demand. The CCG is awaiting the full technical guidance following the outcome of the consultation

## **5. *Reducing Inequalities***

- 5.1 Primary care networks build on the core of current primary care services and enable greater provision of proactive, personalised, coordinated and more integrated health and social care.

## **6. *Decide***

- 6.1 No decision required.

## **7. *Respond***

- 7.1 The report is an update for information.

## **8. *Review***

- 8.1 PCNs are working with Walsall CCG and the wider Walsall Together integrated system.

### **Background papers**

1. NHS England Long Term Plan: <https://www.longtermplan.nhs.uk/>
2. NHS England Investment and Evolution:  
<https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/gp-contract-2019.pdf>
3. 2019-20 GP Contract  
<https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/gms-contract-changes-2019-20/>
4. Consultation Summary Report: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/network-contract-des-engagement-on-draft-outline-service-specifications-summary-report/>

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