

1<sup>st</sup> October 2019

The Pharmacy Manager

### **Primary Care Networks – Update and request for community pharmacy representatives**

**Requested action:**

- **Read this letter and briefing for an update on Primary Care Networks in your locality**
- **Consider if you would like the opportunity to be the Primary Care Network community pharmacy lead in your area.**
- **Complete and submit the enclosed form and return to Devon LPC as soon as possible.**

Primary Care Networks (PCNs) are multi-disciplinary teams of healthcare professionals working together at a local level to deliver joined up patient care. Each Primary Care Network will cover around 30-50,000 patients registered with constituent GP practices.

The enclosed PSNC Briefing provides additional information about PCNs and what they aim to achieve.

Across Devon LPC there are 31 PCNs (see Appendix A for GP practice and local community pharmacy alignment that the LPC currently has mapped]. This was previously sent out to all pharmacies in July 2019; however, if you believe this is not a correct alignment and that your pharmacy should be aligned to an alternative PCN please let us know.

#### **Getting involved with the work of your PCN**

Although general practice will be at the heart of PCNs, NHS England has said that it wants clinical pharmacists (employed by the networks) and community pharmacists to be engaged in the work of the networks.

It is important that community pharmacy teams are fully engaged in the work of PCNs, to optimise their provision of services to patients and because the future development of locally commissioned services will be influenced by PCNs.

In addition engagement with PCNs is an important criterion within the 2019-2020 Pharmacy Quality Scheme (Extract below).

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**Primary Care Networks (PCNs)**

***On the day of the declaration, the pharmacy must be able to demonstrate that their pharmacy, and all of the other pharmacies within the PCN footprint who wish to engage with a PCN, have agreed a collaborative approach to engaging with their PCN.***

***This approach must include agreement on a single channel of communication by appointing a named lead representative for all of the community pharmacies who wish to engage with their PCN in the PCN footprint.***

***The Pharmacy PCN Lead must have provided their name to the Local Pharmaceutical Committee (LPC) in which the PCN lies and must have demonstrable evidence that they have started the engagement process with the PCN, i.e. they have made initial contact with the Clinical Director for the PCN either by contacting them through correspondence (post/email) or by arranging a meeting with them or by meeting them.***

***All pharmacies claiming for this domain must submit the name of their appointed Pharmacy PCN Lead and the pharmacy name and ODS code***

***The Pharmacy PCN Lead must declare: • that they are the appointed Pharmacy Lead for that PCN; • the name of the PCN; • that they have notified this to the LPC in which the PCN lies; and that they have evidence of having started the engagement process with the PCN, as outlined above.***

**The Devon LPC is aiming to facilitate the process of local pharmacies working together and identifying their lead pharmacist. We therefore need to identify a community pharmacy representative to act as a community pharmacy lead in each network and we are looking for individuals within community pharmacy to come forward to work in each PCN.**

If you are interested in being involved with the local PCN and are willing to represent your local community pharmacies, please let us know by adding your details onto the enclosed form and returning as soon as possible, but no later than the 15<sup>th</sup> October 2019. You don't have to be a contractor the opportunity is open to all.

If you have already had discussions within your PCN network and agreed between you a lead pharmacist please let us know. If you have any queries, or if you wish to discuss this role further, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely



Sue Taylor  
**Chief Officer**  
**Devon LPC**

Encl: - PCN Community Pharmacy Representative Form  
Annex A: PCN locality information