

THE FUTURE OF COMMUNITY PHARMACY

Primary Care Networks & neighbourhood working in Devon

Primary Care Networks

What are they?

Primary Care Networks (PCNs) have now been created in England, with a total of 31 networks in Devon. PCNs are groups of GP practices working closely together, along with other health and care professionals in other organisations to provide joined up, patient centred, primary and community-based care in line with the NHS Long Term Plan.

- This NHS England film explains more: <https://youtu.be/W19DtEsc8Ys>
- Primary Care Networks will build on current services by enabling primary and community care to become **more local, more proactive, personalised, coordinated and integrated:**

“Clinicians describe this as a change from reactively providing appointments to proactively caring for the people and communities they serve”

- PCNs cover populations of **30,000 to 50,000** patients and are based on GP patient lists. A typical PCN might include **5 GP practices**, with **8 community pharmacies** in its footprint, although some town or city centre PCNs may have up to **20 community pharmacies** in the group’s geography.
- The size of the PCNs makes them **small enough to be personal** but **large enough to enable neighbourhood services** that cannot be provided in individual GP practices (e.g. physiotherapy, mental health services, social prescribing etc)

Why do Community Pharmacy contractors need to engage?

1. The inter-dependent relationship between PCNs and community pharmacies will be important in the future to provide joined up care to a local population.
2. PCNs can give you the potential to take on greater responsibility for managing patient conditions locally, as well as developing existing services.
3. PCNs will be the local focus for primary care, with the potential for new pharmacy services to be commissioned by these networks; getting involved now will help secure the pharmacy future.
4. PCNs will bring opportunities to community pharmacy, but only if you engage, **collectively** with other pharmacies. **The time of collaborative working as opposed to competition is now upon us.**

Our Progress to date

- Devon LPC has created an operational plan to support our community pharmacies to engage with PCNs.
- The LPC has mapped the community pharmacies into the PCNs.
- Devon LPC committee members and executive team are engaging with active PCNs in the first instance, so that we are able to support community pharmacy contractors to engage directly when appropriate. To support this, Devon LPC is representing community pharmacy at relevant meetings, ensuring that community pharmacy is involved in shaping PCNs going forward.

Further details on the pharmacies in your local PCN are listed on Appendix 1 overleaf