

Welcome to our latest round-up of what's been happening and what's coming up next for the Leeds GP Confederation. We hope you find it useful. If you have any questions or suggestions for future updates, please **let us know**

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Primary care networks

Over the past few months, we've been working with health and care colleagues across the city to look at what the recently launched NHS Long Term Plan means for Leeds generally and primary care specifically.

The Long Term Plan makes it very clear that primary and community-based care delivered through primary care networks will be the foundation of the future NHS. It sets out an expectation that all areas in England will have established primary care networks by July 2019 - encouraging more collaboration between GPs, their teams and community services. In Leeds, we're already ahead of the game thanks to our existing locality model.

Of course, there's still lots to do and we're working with the CCG and member practices to develop the new networks, but we're confident that we already have the conditions and relationships in the city to make primary care networks a success.

How we can support primary care networks

We have engaged extensively with member practices about how we can support you with your priorities. This work has been developed to take into account the changing local and national context including the review of the Leeds plan, workforce issues, new five year GP contract, as well as the Long Term Plan.

We're developing a new 'offer' to help mitigate risks and manage the workload of the new networks that will enhance the work we're already doing to support practices and localities.

The offer will cover

- **Primary care development** – this is the existing work provided by the primary care and pharmacy team but will also include a bespoke 'intensive support team' to work with practices to solve particular difficult problems and to spread and share good work whilst continuing to provide hands on support.
- **Workforce** – we're working with LCH to develop a new service that will include a number of elements to help ensure a stable, skilled workforce that meets the needs of primary care networks and individual practices.
- **Digital** - the new GP contract changes mean that practices will need to offer a range of digital services to patients through the [new NHS app](#). This includes booking appointments, ordering medicines and having access to their medical record. It also includes a requirement to offer online consultations. We have started work which will ensure practices have access to the technology, and advice and support required to make implementing these changes easier and more effective for patients and practices.

We've also identified the potential to support primary care networks with contracts,

finance, procurement and estates if there is demand for these services to be developed more widely to bring costs down and help iron out inconsistencies and variations.

Our offer will be presented at the Members meetings on Wednesday 15 May. However we will be sending out some information about the Confederation providing a bank account for PCNs - complete with governance, transparency and the costs. Full details of how PCNs can sign up to any of the Confederations offer will also be published.

Support for individual practices and localities

During recent months, we have submitted a joint bid for the new IAPT / primary care mental health service that proposes additional therapists based in general practice. If the model is agreed and our bid is successful, the contract will start in November 2019.

As part of the new social prescribing contract, we have also helped secure 36 social prescribers who will be based in primary care.

In addition, we have received funding from the CCG which will be used to deliver a digital solution to support practices in developments such as on-line consultations and a plan for integrated care / wound care hubs. We're also looking at setting up a practice nurse bank to support practices with staff shortages. There'll be more information about these projects as they develop.

The extended access service, which the Confederation manages on behalf of the city, continues to develop. There were over 100,000 appointments last year, with 96% of available slots booked. We're looking at how we can add additional appointments for pharmacists, physiotherapists and nurses, and also adding more HCA appointments to support practices with NHS Health Checks. The availability of evening and weekend appointments for the health checks will be a real benefit for patients who might otherwise be reluctant to take time off work.

The CCG's primary care development and clinical pharmacy teams have been embedded in the Confederation since October 2018. During that time, they have continued to work directly with practices and localities to support them. Recent activity has included

- Setting up new integrated community services, including leg clubs and child and family hubs
- Targeted work with communities to increase low MMR uptake, manage diabetes during Ramadan and raise awareness of CVD
- Developing new and shared workforce roles, including paramedics, HCAs, phlebotomists, frail elderly team and a home visiting GP; we're also exploring practice and district nurse integration and have established a preceptorship scheme.
- Supported practices with specific projects such as funding bids, mergers and HR issues

- Big improvements in prescribing for asthma, diabetes, antibiotics and frailty
- Developing a new clinical pharmacy strategy. As primary care networks become established, locality lead pharmacists will support them to develop individual plans

In addition the Confederation has represented primary care and general practice in a variety of ways. We participate and speak up for general practice at the key leadership forums in the city such as the Health and Wellbeing Board and Partnership Executive Group, for example. The Confed also takes a lead role in workforce planning in the city as well as provider collaboration. Whilst these may not always seem tangible, they do keep the profile of GPs at the forefront of longer term planning for health and care in the city.

Tell us how we're doing

To help both the CCG and the Confederation gauge how well we are meeting our purpose, supporting practices and localities, and delivering against the outcomes we've been set, we will be carrying out four short surveys between October 2018 and March 2020.

The first baseline survey was sent out in November – thank you to everyone who took part. There was some very positive feedback but for the majority, it was too early to say if we were making a difference. We fully expected that, as we had only been established a few short months at that time. A common theme was that you needed more information about our plans and achievements – please see below, in keeping you informed how we're addressing this.

The next survey will be sent out in May. Please take a few minutes to complete it, as your responses will help us see what's going well and where we need to improve.

Keeping you informed

As our projects are developing, we want to make sure you're kept involved in and informed about our work:

- **Meetings:** we regularly give updates and seek feedback at locality / primary care network meetings; practice manager, nurse and pharmacy lead meetings; members' meetings; TARGET; and our strategic board. If you represent your network or practice at any of these meetings, please make sure you keep your colleagues updated.
- **Briefings and updates:** we are aiming to send out general Confederation updates every two to three months; we'll also be developing more localised briefings for primary care networks and wider footprints. As part of a joint project with the CCG to reduce duplication and streamline communications, operational information, data, procedures and so on will be shared via the **primary care bulletin** and **extranet**.
- **Website:** our new website is now live - www.leedsgpconfederation.org.uk. The

site is still being developed, but over time, it will include news, updates, service and project information, jobs, meeting papers, publications and so on.

- **Twitter:** Follow us [@LeedsGP](#)

In the meantime, if you are aware of any colleagues who are not receiving these updates or if you have any suggestions for improving the information you get from the Confederation, please let us know using the contacts at the end of this bulletin.

A reminder of who we are

The Leeds GP Confederation was established in March 2018 to represent the collective view of GP practices as providers in Leeds. The GP Confederation has evolved through shared working with the GP leadership and the existing three federations in Leeds.

The Confederation is a 'not for profit social enterprise,' working to improve the health of the people of Leeds by strengthening and sustaining primary care. We exist to

- Help practices remain sustainable by building on the attributes of primary care.
- Enable practices to play a full and active role in quality improvement, service integration and pathway development, aligned with the local care partnership vision.
- Create a governance system that enables practices be active in contributing to both local and citywide strategy.
- Create an organisational structure which is able to hold contracts and deliver services across general practice in Leeds and in partnership with other providers in the city.
- Listen and act.

How to get in touch

Please contact us if you'd like more information.

You can also follow us on Twitter - @LeedsGp

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