

THE FUTURE OF GP PRACTICES: HOW WORKING TOGETHER WILL WORK FOR YOU



From 2019, nearby GP practices will start to work together in 'Primary Care Networks' (PCNs), so they can share their expertise and resources over a wider geographical area. The [NHS's Long Term Plan](#), published in January 2019, aims to integrate a lot of services which have traditionally worked separately—like mental health services, physiotherapy and social care. By working together in a PCN, your practice will be able to offer you a wider range of services than they could deliver on their own, and give you much faster and more efficient access to the right care and support.

Each PCN will develop teams of healthcare professionals, including GPs, pharmacists, district nurses, community paramedics, physiotherapists and other health workers, to provide tailored care for patients in their community. A 'Social Prescriber' will be appointed in each PCN to help direct people to a whole range of non-medical services, like social clubs, community support groups and exercise activities, that will help them take greater control of their own health and stay well.

HOW WILL THIS AFFECT YOU?



- ✓ Easier and more efficient access to the specialists you need
- ✓ More involvement in decision making and control over your own treatment
- ✓ A greater focus on prevention - like more help to improve your overall health and wellbeing through community-based activities
- ✓ Better access to other specialists will help free up GP's time and enable them to offer more routine appointments and greater continuity of care
- ✓ Early intervention will reduce the pressure on hospitals and A&E
- ✓ 20,000 additional staff and clinicians will be in PCNs by 2023/24
- ✓ Services will be more cost-effective, with £900 million in funding to support the operation of PCNs and additional staffing, plus £1.8 billion in additional funding for the increased services
- ✓ 25% of general appointments will be available through online booking and more remote consultations, like via online video, will be offered



THE PRIMARY CARE NETWORK TIMELINE

April 2019

GP practices start the formal process of becoming PCNs

July 2019

The new GP practice contract goes live across England

July 2019

Agreements with other community organisations are concluded

July 2019

Key appointments are made and additional funding starts.

By April 2020

Clinical pharmacists and social prescribers are appointed in PCNs

By April 2021

First Contact Physiotherapists are available in PCNs and Primary Care training hubs are set up

By April 2022

Increased focus on heart and lung disease prevention, and Community Paramedics join PCNs

To find out more about the future of health services in your community and how you can get involved, visit your local Clinical Commissioning Group's website.