

Update from Chair of Deddington Health Centre PPG

With the rapid development of Primary Care Networks (outlined in this issue) my PPG colleagues, and I, as Chair have been attending a number of meetings to ensure the patient voice is represented appropriately. Representatives of the PPGs from the five surgeries making up our network, NORA (North Oxford Regional Alliance), have already met twice in the past few weeks to understand how our local network might be structured and supported by patients. These are potentially exciting times with a range of new, locally available services being developed by the network over the coming years. Patient involvement in getting this right is essential and we will be working hard to ensure this happens. I personally have attended several other meetings recently, including a regional network of PPGs meeting for Oxfordshire and a public meeting in Banbury looking at how to access appropriate health and social care. It is clear from talking with others from across Oxfordshire that we are lucky to have the dedicated staff at Deddington Health Centre and that the service they provide is one of the best and that our plans for the networks are more advanced than many others.

Finally, our PPG Annual General Meeting will be on Tuesday 1st October at 6pm in the Practice. More news to follow about the programme, but if you want to suggest anything specific you want covered please contact me at andycrawf1954@gmail.com.

Andy Anderson

Primary Care Networks (Known as PCNs)

Primary Care Networks are a new way for several general practices to collaborate. They are a national development and are intended to help practices:

- to offer more coordinated services across their geographical area
- to provide better ways for patients to access a wider range of health care professionals
- make better use of digital technology

Why are they being set-up?

In January 2019 NHS England published a 10-year plan for the NHS. It is designed to tackle 3 key issues. These are:

- Limits to the amount of funding
- Shortages of clinical and non-clinical staff, especially GPs
- Growing pressures from an increasing and ageing population

Practices will work together to ensure patient care is coordinated and easier to access whilst also improving GP and Practice workload sustainable.

This Year 2019/20

This year is seen as a 'setting up' year. By July 2019 practices will have agreed their networks and agreed a clinical lead (Director).

Each Primary Care Network will cover between 30-50,000 patients. Practices are of different sizes, so the number of practices making up a Network will vary.

Each Network will be given funding to recruit a Clinical Pharmacist and a Social Prescribing Link Worker. Some practices already have these professionals working in the Practice, but these services will now be available in all practices.

Ongoing Plan

Once the networks are up and running, funding for additional types of health professionals will be made available. From 2020 this will include Physiotherapists and Physician Associates (a new clinical role) and from 2021 Community Paramedics.

The NHS Long Term Plan also outlines some specific areas on which networks will be asked to focus. In 2020 they will be asked to work as a network on providing improved services to

care homes, better early cancer diagnosis, and more coordinated care with other community services. From 2021 they will focus on tackling the health inequalities in their locality and prevention of cardiovascular (heart) disease.

Patient Engagement

North Oxfordshire Rural Alliance GP practices are: Deddington Health Centre, Chipping Norton Health Centre, Bloxham Surgery, Wychwood Surgery, Cropredy Surgery. Each practice has a PPG to represent patients. All patients are free to join and/or contact their PPG if they wish to join the discussions. As the network develops our PPGs will be working together to form a larger proactive PPG representing the rural practices. Oxfordshire Locality Forum Chairs (Mrs Anita Higham for North Oxfordshire) are working hard to ensure that there is patient representation.

How will this affect patients?

You may not notice much change during 2019, especially in practices that already provide clinical pharmacist and/or social prescribing services. However, as practices get used to working together some services and practice staff may be shared and you may find that there may be changes to the types of

services that are available to you and where they happen.

Clinical Pharmacists

Clinical Pharmacists can help you by working with you to ensure that you are taking your medications properly and to review on a regular basis. They are also able to manage common ailments, deal with medication queries and actioning hospital discharge medication requests.

Social prescribing

Social prescribing is sometimes referred to as 'community referral'. It is a means of helping GPs, nurses and other primary care professionals to refer people to a range of local, non-clinical services. It aims to help you take greater control of your own health.

Social prescribing schemes can involve a variety of activities which are often provided by voluntary and community sector organisations.

How can I find out more about my local Primary Care Network?

More information about Primary Care Networks in Oxfordshire can be found on the Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group website.

www.oxfordshireccg.nhs.uk

A graphic for the NHS Long Term Plan. It features a photograph of an elderly man smiling at a baby. The NHS logo is in the top right corner. A dark blue diagonal banner contains white text. The text reads: 'The NHS Long Term Plan will make the NHS fit for the future', followed by three bullet points: '✓ We'll help give everyone the best start in life', '✓ We'll offer treatment that helps people to live well with lifelong illnesses', and '✓ We'll support people to age well, helping older people stay independent and healthier for longer'. The hashtag #NHSLongTermPlan is at the bottom right of the banner.

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the NHS fit for the future

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#NHSLongTermPlan

www.longtermplan.nhs.uk

More information can be found
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