

# Primary Care Networks (PCNs)

Hopefully you are all aware of the latest acronym, PCN, that is front and centre in all NHS based discussions at the moment.

PCNs are intended to provide services that are appropriate and necessary for the particular community that they serve. All GPs are required to align themselves with a PCN but, crucially, they are also required to work with a full range of other healthcare professionals who are serving the same community, in order to provide the most effective health service and fulfil the ambitions of the NHS Long Term Plan.

As community pharmacies are also being identified as important providers of prevention, screening, and urgent and emergency care services we are well placed to play an important role within PCNs.

However, this is now the critical time for all those in community pharmacy to ensure that they have established good relationships with the surgeries in their neighbourhood so that they are recognised, and included, as valuable partners in achieving the aims of the PCNs.

Currently, we do not have any specific information to share with you about the PCNs across our patch, as the deadline for their formation will not be reached until the middle of May. Please keep a watchful eye on our website <http://www.cpsc.org.uk> and your email inbox for regular updates and information as things progress. As always, we will signpost you to the most useful and reliable sources of advice and news, with active links to make access as quick and easy as possible for you.

We are ensuring that the support we offer for you is relevant and helpful in preparing you to be a successful part of a PCN. Among other things, I am in current negotiations around a project to support all contractors in building and improving their local GP relationships, and our Academy has already been planned to help provide relevant development opportunities. By attending Academy events, you also have the opportunity to hear directly from LPC representatives and share your questions and comments with them.

If you are interested in potentially taking up a leadership role on behalf of community pharmacy in your PCN, once they are established, please let me know. We absolutely have to be 'in this to win this'!

Kind regards,

Deborah Crockford

CPSC Chief Officer

