

Who is going to be the community pharmacy lead in your PCN?

Surrey & Sussex PCN special | Issue 2 | 29 October 2019

Welcome to our second PCN special newsletter.

We have had a great response to our first edition and want to thank all of you who have taken the time to email or talk to us about it. We really appreciate your opinion on what we do, so please get in touch if you have comments on any aspect of what we do:

lpc@communitypharmacyss.co.uk

- *The contents of this email should be brought to the attention of the pharmacy manager for action.*
- *Where a pharmacy is owned by AIMp or CCA members the pharmacy manager may wish to refer to any guidance from their head office via their area manager*

In this issue we continue our support for your new PCN journey

Primary care networks (PCNs) now form a key building block of the [NHS long-term plan](#). And while GP practices have been finding different ways of working together over many years – for example in super-partnerships, federations, clusters and networks – community pharmacists have, mostly, stood by themselves.

The long-term plan and the [new five-year framework](#) for the GP contract, published in January 2019, put a more formal structure around GPs and now, with the emergence of the new community pharmacy contractual framework, community pharmacy is expected to integrate within local primary care networks, do more to protect public health and take on an expanded role in urgent care and medicines safety.

Most GP practices in England have now come together geographically in PCNs under the clinical directorship of a nominated colleague. Sussex and Surrey has over 60 PCN clinical directors and now it is your turn to identify a pharmacy colleague from within your geographical area to become a lead pharmacist to represent you on the PCN and in discussions with the clinical director and others.

How to:

- select a lead pharmacist for your PCN
- achieve the PCN requirements of the new PQS

Last month: your first task in PCNs was to identify which one you belong to.

We mapped all pharmacies in Surrey & Sussex and shared this with you in issue 1 and many of you confirmed or challenged these pairings.

A final list of which pharmacies are located within each PCN can be found [here by LPC area](#), along with everyone's contact details.

Status:
Complete

However, if you believe this is still not correct, you must tell your LPC immediately.
lpc@communitypharmacyss.co.uk

This month: your most important task is to come together with the other pharmacies in your PCN area to discuss and collectively agree to appoint a 'PCN community pharmacy lead'

If you want to put yourself forward as the [pharmacy lead](#) for your PCN area you should [express your interest using the template here](#). Next, you must share the completed template by email with your community pharmacy colleagues in your PCN area ([contact details here](#)). Please also send to your LPC at lpc@communitypharmacyss.co.uk.

Between all pharmacy representatives, organise a short informal meeting for local contractors at PCN level – this needs to be at a time when most people can attend; your LPCs recommend a neutral inclusive venue, such as a café or other community social space. Here is our [suggested agenda](#) for this initial meeting to cover the main purpose of the meeting and to appoint a pharmacy PCN lead.

- Please recognise that it may be difficult to find a meeting date and time to suit all contractors in your PCN area. It is therefore essential that those present at this meeting consider all expressions of interest and that anyone not able to attend a meeting on a specific date is not excluded as a suitable appointment as community pharmacy PCN lead.
- If there is more than one candidate for the pharmacy PCN lead and an agreement cannot be reached at the meeting, the LPC can help you organise a vote of contractors, which could be undertaken by email – each contractor would have one vote for each NHS contract in the PCN area. If this happens please contact us on lpc@communitypharmacyss.co.uk.
- Once your PCN community pharmacy lead has been agreed s/he should notify their LPC. Your new 'lead' should send an email to lpc@communitypharmacyss.co.uk with the following information: their name, contact details, name of the PCN; the name and ODS code for which the Pharmacy lead is based.

The LPCs role in this process

We are supporting you to achieve this in five ways, this month:

1. Providing [a list of pharmacies by PCN and their contact details](#)
2. Sending introductory emails, to pharmacy NHSmail email addresses, on Wednesday 30 October 2019 to link up all pharmacies in every PCN area.
3. Providing [information about the role of the PCN lead](#) and an [expression of interest form](#) and two webinars for interested pharmacy PCN leads – Mon 4th Nov 7.30pm – 7.50pm ([register here](#)) and Wed 6th Nov 1pm – 1.20pm ([register here](#))

Status:
All actions now and before 30 November 2019, latest.
See interim milestones below

For action if appropriate to you, by Friday 8 November

For action as soon as possible and before 30 November 2019

4. LPC members and staff can help with other advice and/or support, if required, which could include all or some of the following, depending on your local circumstances:
- advice on local processes, questions or if problems arise.
 - help to start local conversations amongst community pharmacy contractors in a PCN area, including help to organise meetings of local contractors, including a [sample first meeting agenda](#) or where this is not possible a video or teleconference for contractors.

Contact us if you would like to discuss your local circumstances with us - lpc@communitypharmacyss.co.uk.

5. Helping PCN community pharmacy leads to be successful in their role.

Your LPCs are coordinating training, development and networking opportunities for community pharmacy PCN leads, including how to begin engaging with PCNs. More on this will follow later in November.

Next month: getting ready for your PQS claim

Pharmacy contractors will be able to access 12.5 points in the Pharmacy Quality Scheme if they can provide the name of the PCN they belong to and the name and pharmacy details of their appointed pharmacy PCN lead. When the LPCs know the names of all the PCN leads across Surrey and Sussex they will ensure all contractors have the information they need to make their claims for the PCN domain of the PQS.

Status:

In-hand for before 3 February 2020

More information, advice and help

- [NHS England incentivises pharmacists to nominate PCN lead for community pharmacies](#) (news article in Pharmaceutical Journal)
- [Primary care networks: A briefing for pharmacy teams](#) (NHS England)
- [Guidance for contractors on the PCN domain of the PQS](#) (PSNC)
- [Don't be concerned if you have not yet been invited to help set up emerging primary care networks \(PCNs\)](#), says head of primary care for NHS England's South East Local Regional Office (News: May 2019)
- Contact us lpc@communitypharmacyss.co.uk

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