

## THE FUTURE OF COMMUNITY PHARMACY Primary Care Networks & neighbourhood working in Greater Manchester

### Brief intro into PCNs part two

As you will be aware in Greater Manchester we have been working to a neighbourhood model for quite some time, PCNs in many ways are not too dissimilar or new to us, here in GM which has left some questioning what the big deal is? Well the deal is this...

### Why PCNs and how they will impact you?

There is now a national steer and it's part of the DES to be engaged in these new structures as they come into fruition. The role of Pharmacy will play a significant role in their success going forward. It is therefore important that Community Pharmacies keep abreast of local developments and when there is the opportunity to engage... you put your hands up in the air and be counted! We now have the opportunity that as a profession we have been crying out for! This is the chance for us to drive local service delivery and be funded to do so.

As an LPC we are collating information about the PCN boundaries and key contacts, so we can support you on the ground to get involved and feel confident, so you can be effective in ensuring the Community Pharmacy voice has a strong presence and influence within these networks. Community Pharmacies across Greater Manchester need to come together for this to be a success. Collaboration rather than historic competitive behaviours will only leave Community Pharmacy behind. If we are to secure our futures, now is the time to collaborate and work in alignment with one another and wider Primary Care professionals to ensure that Community Pharmacy are delivering population based high quality services across GM.

PCNs and their associated funding are warmly welcomed in Greater Manchester, and localities are all undertaking work to align existing neighbourhood models with the emerging PCNs to ensure collective service remains without duplication. Going forward the emergence of PCNs may lead to some areas having to move their 'geographical boundaries' so their neighbourhood footprints will need to adapt with this, whereas other localities may decide to keep neighbourhood working model in place and utilise PCNs as an additional tier to this structure. Our healthcare and commissioning colleagues have a lot of work to get through in working all the above out. In the interim for us, this time to ensure that our Community Pharmacy offer is well prepared and that we are ready to engage and hit the ground running!

**The LPC will continue to provide updates on the PCNs via these bulletins and our newsletter, we will be providing local/ neighbourhood-based resources and information, so please watch this space and save our website to your favourites!**