



Primary Care Network UPDATE 1 Lambourn Surgery

Jan 2020

Welcome

Dear Patients,

This PPG Newsletter is a bit different. It's a combined newsletter from your surgery and other surgeries.

The reason is that surgeries in West Berkshire are teaming up into groups to share ideas and cooperate with each other to improve patient care. Each group is called a Primary Care Network (PCN).

Primary Care Networks

PCNs are part of a nationwide NHS scheme aimed at bringing health and social care closer to peoples' homes and also tailoring the surgeries' services to meet the needs of local people.

PCNs are clusters of neighbouring GP surgeries which have teamed up to start providing patients with a wider range of health and wellbeing services, specifically geared towards the needs of their local areas.

This means that, over time, you may have easier access to things like a Clinical Pharmacist, Physiotherapist, Community Mental Health team, Paramedic or Social Prescriber. This has already started, for example all practices in West Berkshire now have Social Prescribers and most have a Clinical Pharmacist.

They will be on hand to help with a wide range of social, emotional, mental health and wellbeing issues and will work together with the GPs in our Network to give you a more joined up care service.

You can find out more at:

www.berkshirewestccg.nhs.uk/pcn

Background Information

We have 4 PCNs that cover West Berkshire patients – Kennet, A34, West Berkshire Rural and West Reading Villages PCN.

Each PCN has employed a social prescriber and some have employed two.

We have been working together to deliver Enhanced Access appointments across all 4 PCNs and working together to deliver First Contact Physio appointments.

Our PCN Directors meet once a month at the Berkshire West PCN meeting.

Three of our Clinical Directors meet once a month with the local management committee from the CCG.

All our PCN Directors work together with the West Berkshire Council through the West Berkshire Integration Board which sits under the Health and Wellbeing Board.

Our PCNs hope to continue to work collaboratively and collectively with our patients, PPGs and Voluntary Sector.

You may be wondering...

Q1: *What is a Primary Care Network?*

Surgeries across the country are teaming up into small groups. Each group is called a Primary Care Network. Please see the make-up of each PCN for West Berkshire to the right.

Q2: *Why do we need it?*

PCNs are part of a nationwide scheme aimed at bringing health and social care closer to people's homes and tailoring the services to meet the needs of local people.

Each PCN is based around natural local communities typically serving populations of between 30,000 and 50,000.

They should be small enough to maintain the traditional strengths of general practice, but large enough to provide resilience and the development of integrated teams.

Q3: *Why group the surgeries together?*

There is a long history of all the local surgeries working well together. The grouped surgeries are like minded with a common approach and shared vision to provide great service for patients.

Q4: *How will it affect me as a patient?*

Your surgery, the Doctors and Nurses and the appointments available will not change.

Behind the scenes the surgeries will be sharing ideas and looking at how services can be improved and expanded.

They will provide more flexible access to advice and support for 'healthier' sections of the population and better integrated care for those with complex conditions.

Q5: *What are the benefits to my surgery?*

Joining a PCN brings new funding to the participating surgeries. This enables the expansion of qualified staff and training to provide the additional services.

Working as a group also enables staff expertise to be developed and shared within the three surgeries. This will save duplication of effort and improve staff satisfaction and retention. Putting all these things together builds more sustainable and resilient surgeries.

Kennet PCN comprises Burdwood, Falkland and Thatcham surgeries.

A34 PCN comprises Strawberry Hill Medical Centre, Downland Practice and Eastfield House Surgery.

West Berkshire Rural PCN comprises Hungerford, Kintbury and Woolton Hill and Lambourn surgeries.

West Reading Villages PCN comprises Chapel Row, Theale, Mortimer and Pangbourne surgeries.

You are able to contact the Surgery directly via their website at the address found below.

Please use the Contact the Practice form which is available on the website.

Burdwood	www.burdwoodsurgery.nhs.uk
Falkland	www.falklandsurgery.co.uk
Thatcham	thatchammedicalpractice.co.uk

Downland	www.downlandpractice.nhs.uk
Eastfield House	www.eastfieldhousesurgery.co.uk
Strawberry Hill	www.strawberryhillmedicalcentre.co.uk

Hungerford	www.hungerfordsurgery.co.uk
Kintbury & Woolton Hill	www.kintburyandwooltonhillsurgeries.co.uk
Lambourn	www.lambournsurgery.co.uk

Chapel Row Surgery	www.crsurgery.co.uk
Boathouse Surgery	www.pangbournesurgery.co.uk
Mortimer	www.mortimersurgery.co.uk
Theale	www.thealemedicalcentre.com

This newsletter is brought to you on behalf of the West Berkshire Health and Wellbeing Board. Tell us what you think by emailing: Chair of Patient and Public Engagement Group, West Berkshire Health and Wellbeing Board at ppe.chair@nhs.net