



# Arden Primary Care Network

# Newsletter

JUNE 2021

Welcome to our first Primary Care Network newsletter. In this newsletter you will find out more about our Primary Care Network (PCN) and some information about our new practice staff roles and how they can help you get the most out of your care.

## WHAT IS A PCN?

PCNs are groups of GP practices working closely together - along with other healthcare staff and organisations - providing integrated services to the local population.

Arden PCN covers the following practices:

**HENLEY-IN-ARDEN MEDICAL CENTRE**

**TANWORTH-IN-ARDEN MEDICAL CENTRE**

**BUDBROOKE MEDICAL CENTRE**

**LAPWORTH SURGERY**

**THE ARROW SURGERY**

**ALCESTER HEALTH CENTRE**

**THE POOL MEDICAL CENTRE**

## EXPANDING OUR WORKFORCE

The needs of our communities, in particular in areas where there are health inequalities, are greater than ever before. Our population is being impacted more and more by complex, long term conditions. There is a growing concern about areas of longstanding unmet health need and the social determinants of health are playing a bigger role than ever before. These new challenges are increasing the pressure on the system to deliver for those in our communities and there is more that we can do to shift our focus from treating those who are unwell to preventing ill health and tackling health inequalities.

The creation of Primary Care Networks (PCNs) builds on the core of current primary care services and enables a greater provision of proactive, personalised and more integrated health and social care. To support PCNs, the Additional Roles Reimbursement Scheme provides funding for additional roles.

Primary care networks assess the needs of their local population and, working with local community services, make support available to people where it is most needed.

# ADDITIONAL ROLES

We have currently recruited 11 additional roles across our PCN. They include: Clinical Pharmacists, Pharmacy Technicians, Social Prescribing Link Workers, Care Coordinators and First Contact Practitioners.

## SOCIAL PRESCRIBING LINK WORKERS

What is a Social Prescribing Link Worker?  
The Social Prescribers working collaboratively with your GP practices to support patients in a holistic way.

Social Prescribers can signpost patients to relevant services to help with a range of issues such as:

- Support with managing low mood, bereavement and loss.
- Carer support.
- Diet and/or lifestyle e.g. exercise, sleep, healthy eating etc.
- Self-care.
- Support with managing long-term health conditions.
- Support getting into work, volunteering and social activities.
- Family and friend relationships and counselling.
- Support with financial worries, benefits and housing difficulties.
- Taking up a new interest or hobby.
- Support to access services in the community to tackle loneliness and isolation.

## FIRST CONTACT PRACTITIONERS

Musculoskeletal (MSK) conditions encompass muscles, bones, joints, back pain and rarer autoimmune diseases. There are over 200 types of musculoskeletal conditions which affect adults and children, having a detrimental effect on their quality of life. MSK problems are linked to various co-morbidities including depression, obesity and diabetes. It is known that people suffer with MSK issues longer than any other chronic conditions. Having FCPs in primary care has numerous benefits for patients. Various case studies have proven that using FCPs can improve many of the challenges the current GP referral system entails. This includes reducing waiting times, improving quality and speed of treatment and recovery and increasing self-management.

## COVID VACCINATIONS

We would like to say a huge THANK YOU to Studley Village Hall for allowing us to use their premises as our vaccination centre. From 13th June the vaccination centre will stand down to allow all further vaccinations to be done at the mass vaccination site. We thank all of the staff and volunteers involved in rolling out the largest vaccination campaign in history!

*Thank You!*

COVID VACCINATION PASSPORTS ARE AVAILABLE THROUGH THE NHS APP. PLEASE DO NOT CONTACT YOUR GP SURGERY ABOUT YOUR COVID-19 VACCINATION STATUS.