

PRIMARY CARE NETWORKS FACT SHEET



What are PCNs?

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

Our plan is to offer a wider range of services at the surgeries that make up our PCN. This means that, in time, our PCN will grow and be able to offer you easy access to a paramedic, clinical pharmacist, Physician's Associate, Social Prescriber and mental health workers.

They may not be based at this surgery, but will be part of our Network and close to your home. They will work alongside our GPs to make it easier and quicker for you to get care from the person who is best suited to meet your needs. This may not always be the doctor. It could be that highly qualified physiotherapist or paramedic is the right person to look after you.

Our PCN is working closely with the Royal Berkshire Hospital, the local voluntary sector, social care teams and community and mental health staff at the Berkshire Healthcare Foundation Trust to make sure the extra services we offer are the right ones to meet our community's particular needs.

We're also starting to use technology a lot more to make our health service smarter, quicker and more convenient.

The NHS Long Term Plan

The development of Primary Care Networks is a key part of the NHS Long Term Plan – an initiative to develop the NHS over the next decade.

Medical advances, the revolution of technology and the changing needs of an ageing and growing population all mean that the NHS has to evolve to be fit for purpose.

The Plan aims to give everyone the best start in life; deliver first-class care for major health problems, such as cancer and heart disease, and help people age well.

It's been drawn up by those who know the NHS best – frontline health and care staff, patients and their families and other experts.

If you'd like to be more involved in what's happening in the NHS at a local level, and also help feed into the national debate, then you may want to join your surgery's Patient Participation Group (PPG).

Each PPG works alongside surgery staff in the planning and development of services to make sure they are the best and most suitable for patients and the local community.

If you'd like to get involved, please ask at reception for details.

