

Melksham and Bradford on Avon Primary Care Network

Update 21st June 2022

Clinical Director: Dr Janice Patrick

Background

Melksham and Bradford on Avon Primary Care Network consists of three GP Practices:

Giffords Surgery

Spa Medical Centre

Bradford on Avon and Melksham Health Partnership

Overall population is c. 48,000 population

We have been working together since 2019 to deliver services at scale and to build resilience into Primary Care. The national challenge of recruiting more Doctors and Nurses continues across all three practices, along with an increase in patient demand, despite delivering more appointments than pre-pandemic levels.

New Roles

To provide more clinical and non-clinical patient services, a recruitment drive to appoint a range of additional roles has been taking place over the past couple of year.

Across the PCN we now have the following roles working alongside Doctors and Nurses:

Paramedics to provide home visits and Care Home ward rounds

Clinical Pharmacy Team to deliver Medicine reviews and deal with queries

Two First Contact Physiotherapist for acute muscle problems

Mental Health Nurses to support low level mental health problems and distress

Care Co-ordinators to support Care Navigation and health checks

Social Prescribers to support patients with non-medical conditions such as, loneliness and social problems.

We are also in the process of building a Wellbeing Team with the recruitment of three Health and Wellbeing Coaches to provide lifestyle advice especially for Stop Smoking and Obesity. The impact of this new team will likely be felt in the Autumn.

Working at Scale

An example of working at scale has been in the delivery of over 100,000 Covid vaccinations from Spencers Club in Melksham. This programme will be scaled down during the Summer, only to increase again from September as part of delivering the Covid Booster and Flu vaccination programmes.

The two Leg Clubs to provide care for lower limb ulcers is still thriving and additional services such as respiratory clinics have been added to using the space at Spencer's and St Margaret's Hall.

In addition, the PCN is currently canvassing patients as part of delivering an enhanced access service for routine appointments on a Saturday across West Wiltshire from 1st October 2022. This will include a range of services, such as smears and other long term condition checks. Further information on the details will follow at the end of August 2022.

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