Primary Care Sheffield

New GP Contract

Support for practices

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Introduction

The NHS Long Term plan sets out a framework for groups of practices to work together as a Primary Care Network, taking a lead role and sharing a collective responsibility for supporting the specific needs of their populations.

PCS views general practice as the cornerstone of patient care. We are committed to ensuring that you have the resources and support that you want and need in order to continue to provide services that reflect local patients' needs, and in doing so reduce health inequalities across the city.

General practice in Sheffield is already in a strong position relative to most, with 96% of practices rated good by CQC and with PCS an established federation in place, owned by practices, which seeks to support and protect your interests through sustainable and resilient scaled solutions.

Change is inevitable in the health system and the new Network DES offers a significant opportunity for primary care in the city to further establish itself as a key influential partner in the system.

There are elements of the Network DES which align to some of the initiatives that are already available to your practice through PCS, including the PCS clinical pharmacy service. The service provides an effective and scaled solution to extending the clinical workforce in practices reducing the risks of employing staff directly.

Through PCS, practices have the ability to harness economies of scale, reduce duplication and deploy the primary care workforce efficiently and effectively, as well as avoiding fragmentation by working in isolated groups. By working together we have the ability to demonstrate a cohesive, supportive model for delivering against the aspirations of the NHS long term plan and to be at the forefront of system change.

This guide is intended as a starting point for sharing ideas and suggestions for how we think PCS could support you with the new DES and its requirements as the new contract comes into effect on 1st July. The options proposed in this guide are based on the principles of reducing duplication, limiting risk and maximising investment into practices. As your organisation, it is essential that the solutions are shaped by practices, and we welcome your feedback and input.

Over the coming weeks and working with colleagues in the LMC and CCG we will continue to actively engage with you to further develop our offer.

Dr Andy Hilton
CEO
Primary Care Sheffield
March 2019

Understanding the new GP contract

With the publication of the new GP contract, practices will not only need to have a clear understanding of what this means for them, but also how they will now work as part of a network.

The contract has a number of key changes that practices will need to fully understand, however some will happen sooner than others.

Due to the complex nature of the changes, PCS has produced this guide to help with discussions at a practice and network level, outlining how it can support with these changes in coming months.

The new GP contract has a number of key changes that practices will need to fully understand.

PCS can help you to manage this transition.

In order to have a clear offer of support, PCS will focus on the following key principles:

- Support for clinical leadership across Primary Care Networks (PCNs), where this is what networks want us to do.
- Reduce the administrative burden and offer a supportive framework for implementing the Network Contract DES, by offering a collective PCS solution.
- Support to understand the Network Agreement, protocols and aligned financial entitlement to ensure networks are able to maximise their participation and income.
- A solution for workforce at scale for the five additional roles reducing risk for networks of direct employment.
- Act as the host organisation for the PCN Network DES where this is what networks and practices want us to do.

PCS can reduce the administrative burden and provide direct support for the implementation of the Network Contract DES.

PCS support for practices and networks

There are a number of initial steps that practices and networks will need to consider with the implementation of the new contract.

The first large piece of work will be to understand the new Network Contract DES and additional roles, what this means and how it needs to be managed.

The key things that PCS wants to highlight are:

- The Network Contract DES
- Network models and clinical leadership
- The Network Agreement - setting out the collective rights and obligations required for networks to claim their financial entitlements (collectively rather than as individual practices)
- Local Network protocols - developing protocols to be included in the Network Agreement
- The practice and network administration of the DES
- Supporting workforce
- Network development and support

PCS offer

Network Contract DES

Practice and Network requirements	PCS Offer
Sign up to **Network Contract DES**	All practices will be invited to sign up to the DES by 15 May 2019. PCS are happy to offer any support with understanding the Network Contract DES and the completion of the required registration form.
Each practice **Network DES** will be **supported via a Network Agreement** which will outline the principles and governance under which they are required to operate with practices and other partners. Each agreement strengthens collaboration between all constituent practices (like a partnership agreement). This is the vehicle under which constituent members agree how they will work.	Network specification and agreements will be published at the end of March 2019. PCS will complete a detailed review of the documentation and are happy to liaise with the CCG and LMC to ensure all practices across the 16 existing neighbourhoods have a clear understanding of the guidance. PCS are happy to work with practices to understand how they wish to structure their model of delivery and how the agreement then needs to be implemented.

Practice and Network requirements	PCS Offer
Each network will need to appoint a **Clinical Director 0.25WTE per 50,000 network population**.	PCS are happy to support a transparent process to **recruit the Clinical Directors**. We will offer a peer support network linked to our **Neighbourhood Steering Committee**, to support Clinical Directors across the network footprint.
Each network will need to have a **named contractual lead** to administratively manage the DES and the financial flows on behalf of the network.	PCS are happy to be the named contractual lead on behalf of networks to deliver a consistent single approach that represents value for money, strong governance, economies of scale and removes the administrative burden from the networks but ensures practice autonomy with regards to decision making is maintained.

Practice and Network requirements	PCS Offer
Each practice needs to understand the **Network Protocols** that underpin the Network DES and implement these protocols in order to maximise the financial opportunity for the network aligned to the DES.	PCS will provide a clear framework for the development and implementation of the Network Protocols to maximise network income. PCS has invested in an IT solution that will support delivery and provide assurance, governance and effective communication. We will help you develop, review and maintain Network Protocols using this system.
Network DES performance is linked to the Network Financial Entitlement for the whole of the network (not individual practice performance) so collective performance is key to maximising income.	PCS will co-ordinate the collation, analysis and submission of returns on behalf of networks to maximise their financial entitlements through achievement of the DES.

Practice and Network requirements	PCS Offer
100% of geographical coverage of the Network Contract DES by 1 July 2019. Practices will be requested to participate in the DES ensuring total coverage for the patient population. If a practice chooses not to participate, the CCG will identify and appoint a provider to provide this on their behalf.	For those practices that do not wish to sign the Network DES then a decision will need to be taken as to who will hold the agreement on their behalf. PCS are happy to hold the agreement on their behalf if this is what they wish to do and supported by other network members to ensure 100% coverage by 1 July 2019.
Workforce Support - Additional Roles Reimbursement Scheme for employing new roles in primary care, starting with pharmacists and social prescribers.	PCS can support the recruitment, employment and support of additional roles for networks, ensuring there is local ownership at practice level for direct delivery of clinical services and no direct employment risks to the practices within the network.
Network development and support. In the weeks to come there will be national support for network development.	PCS are working at a national level to access opportunities to be a 'test bed' site for new contract opportunities and will be able to offer networks an opportunity to be an integral part of testing new models of care.

Why PCS?

As an organisation set up to support Sheffield general practice PCS is well placed to offer support to practices in meeting the requirements of the new contract and in obtaining your full financial entitlement.

PCS delivers a wide range of services and is a key partner within the system, with a rising profile locally, regionally and nationally.

PCS is well respected as being at the forefront of primary care at scale, and in fact many other areas of the country are seeking to replicate what has been achieved in Sheffield. The long term plan and the new GP contract present an opportunity to further develop resilient primary care in the city for the future.

PCS has a proven track record of delivering at scale solutions that directly benefit Sheffield practices, and improve access for patients.

PCS is CQC registered with a robust governance structure and infrastructure already in place, with clinical input and which is compliant with all legal requirements.

PCS offers a range of services to help you manage the requirements of the Network DES.
To discuss options please contact us on **0114 226 4500** or at **pcs.enquiries@nhs.net**

Next steps

Having produced this guide to seek the views of practices on how PCS can offer direct support for the implementation of the new contract requirements, we now intend to refine the offer by seeking direct views and sharing these with the LMC and CCG.

Once this has been completed PCS will hold a citywide event to present the outcomes and finalised offer to practices and neighbourhoods.

Save the date.

Join us at our citywide event to learn more about how PCS can help your practice to manage the new contract.

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