

ENGAGE

NHS St Helens CCG Community Newsletter
Edition 15



ENGAGE is the best way to find out about the latest opportunities to have your say in the design of your local health and social care. In this bulletin you can see the ways you can get involved from surveys to events, as well as find out what happened with previous work you have been part of.



Paul Steele
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During June the CCG attended the Learning Disability physical health event held at St Helens Rugby club. During the day a number of activities took place from rugby league demonstration, cycling tracks as well as number of local services showcasing who they are and what they do to support people living with a learning disability and carers. A number of presentations took place from hospital doctors and GPs highlighting the importance of having an annual health check and what's involved in the checks. The day came to a close with a performance from a local signing choir, the choir brings together service users, carers and health professionals.

Also in June as part of St Helens Cares, the first meeting of the Stakeholder reference forum took place. This meeting was a set up as development session bringing together members for the first time to talk about the role of the forum and what the forum will do going forward.

The Stakeholder Reference Forum (SRF) is established to build and sustain meaningful engagement with people across all communities within St Helens, enabling them to

have a voice in improving their health and in shaping services as part of St Helens Cares. As such, the SRF will play a key role in providing feedback to the St Helens Cares Provider Board and the St Helens Cares Executive Board, as well as other governance groups within St Helens Cares, on proposals for service change.

This Forum will be made up of patients, service users and carers, and representatives from groups and organisations that represent them or that have an interest in this area. They will offer their perspectives on how St Helens Cares can inform and engage with people on its programmes of work.

We will be shortly launching a St Helens cares website which will keep you updated on the work across St Helens.

To get involved with our work or find out what other engagement opportunities we have please visit our website. If you would like more information on any of the opportunities or would like to get involved please do not hesitate to contact me at paul.steele@sthelensccg.nhs.uk or on 01744 624596.

Get involved and have your say



Care at the Chemist consultation

St Helens Clinical Commissioning Group wants to hear the views of the public as it reviews the future of its 'Care at the Chemist' scheme.

The 'Care at the Chemist' scheme for minor ailments is available to the public in all but two patient-facing pharmacies in St Helens and patients eligible for free prescriptions can obtain treatment for 27 minor ailments free of charge.

NHS St Helens Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) is holding a 12 week consultation running until Saturday 21st September and is asking the public should it:

- Cease the service

- Limit the number of pharmacies who offer the minor ailment service, for example only those pharmacies that are open 100 hours will be able to offer the service.
- Limit the number minor ailments and treatments offered
- Only offer the service to those aged 17 years and under.

Professor Sarah O'Brien, Strategic Director People's Services / Clinical Accountable Officer at NHS St Helens CCG, said: "It is right that we regularly review our services to ensure that we're providing the most effective treatments and value for money for our population.

"The 'Care at the Chemist' scheme currently costs the CCG £200-250k each year and we want the public's view on whether they think this is best use of limited NHS resources when over the counter medicines such as paracetamol and ibuprofen can now be purchased very cheaply at supermarkets and other high street stores.

"We also want to ensure that people understand the importance of self-care - looking after their own health and wellbeing, and know when to visit the pharmacist, GP or other health professional." <http://www.selfcareforum.org>

People can give their views between now and the 21st September in the following ways:

- By completing the [Online survey](#)
- By calling 01744 627596 to request a paper copy or completing the survey over the phone

The CCG will also be linking in with local community groups and running drop in sessions in the town centre and throughout the borough over the coming 12 weeks to ensure as many people as possible can have their say and give their opinions.

For more information on the consultation, please email: engagement@sthelensccg.nhs.uk

Shared Care Record

Many people think that their GP health record is available to all health and social care workers involved in their care, but this is not always the case.

At the moment, each person you see keeps a separate record. This can mean some important information is not communicated between health and social care services as well as it should.

To help, we are launching the St Helens Shared Care Record - all local GPs, hospitals, community, mental health and social care services are working together to make it possible for health and social care workers to look at relevant information about you to make the best clinical decisions. More information can be found on our [website](#).

Primary Care Networks

The biggest transformation to the way family doctors work in more than a generation was launched 1 July.

It will see general practices, large and small, working to support each other while offering a wider range of specialist care services to patients from a range of health professionals.

GPs will recruit multi-disciplinary teams, including pharmacists, physiotherapists, paramedics, physician associates and social prescribing support workers, freeing up family doctors to focus on the sickest patients.

Around 7,000 general practices – more than 99% – have come together across England to form almost 1,300 new Primary Care Networks.

In Cheshire and Merseyside 374 general practices and 55 networks with St Helens having 34 practices and 4 networks aligned to the localities of the St Helens Cares programme: Newton and Haydock, North, South, and the Town Centre.

View NHS England's animation which explains more about Primary Care Networks [here](#)

Anthony Leo, Director of Primary Care and Public Health for the NHS in the North West said, *“Primary Care Networks allow the practices within them to think differently about the services they are offering to their patients.*

“By working together, they can share the workload and ease pressure on the individual practice teams. As primary care networks develop, they will work closely with other health and social care partners and the wider system to offer better access to a wider range of joined-up services more quickly for people who need them most.”

This milestone for primary medical and community care, which forms a major commitment of the NHS Long Term Plan, will see neighbouring practices working more closely together and with other services in their area to provide more joined up care for patients.

The additional funding from the five-year GP Contract agreed with the BMA at the end of January, includes £1.8 billion to fund the recruitment of 20,000 more specialist healthcare staff to support general practices.

Professor Sarah O'Brien, Strategic Director People's Services / Clinical Accountable Officer at NHS St Helens CCG said: *“Almost half of all of GP appointments don't need to be with a family doctor and having other specialist healthcare staff available should free up GPs to spend more time with patients who need them most, offering longer appointments to those who need them, meaning that patients can get a range of expert specialist services at their local practice.*

“Patients will also have a range of options when it comes to getting appointments at their practice, including the introduction of digital appointments, which will build on the progress which saw evening and weekend appointments made available at the end of last year.

“In St Helens we have worked hard to ensure that 100% of our population can access network services and means that our GP practices will be able to drive further action on conditions such as cancer and heart disease as well as doing more to tackle obesity, diabetes and mental ill health, and support older people at home and in care homes.”

The NHS Long Term Plan will see funding for primary medical and community care

increase as a share of the NHS budget for the first time in the health service's 70-year history, with an extra £4.5 billion invested by 2023.

Dr Nikki Kanani, a GP and NHS England's Acting Medical Director for Primary Care, added: "We're delighted with the enthusiasm shown across the country with GPs, local medical committees and commissioners working together to establish Primary Care Networks.

"Of around 7,000 practices across England, 99.6% have joined a PCN with just a handful opting out. We would have liked full coverage but we respect the rights and reasons of those practices who have decided not to sign up and where they haven't, commissioners will make arrangements to ensure that 100% of patients can access network services. The new PCNs will see GPs large and small working together to provide a wider selection of specialist services to patients. It's a game changer and signals the start of a new era for general practice."

Tell us your story



Share Your Story!

Your experience of the NHS in St Helens is important to us, it will help us shape the way we deliver services and also help to ensure that we are providing the best quality of service to you.

If you have had a recent experience which you would like to tell us about, please fill out the form via the link below to tell us your story. We use this information to provide feedback to our commissioners and service providers so we can continually improve our services.

- [Complete patient experience form here](#)
- Contact us directly on 01744 627 596



Our mailing address is:

engagement@sthelensccg.nhs.uk

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