



# 3 Valleys Health Primary Care Network

27 September 2023

Mrs Helen Harris  
3 Valleys Health Primary Care Network Manager



# What is a Primary Care Network?

PCNs established July 2019. 1,250 in England

Groups of general practices working together to focus on local patient care

Working with other health and care organisations and their communities to provide better and more integrated services to improve population health and wellbeing

Vehicles for investment. NHS England workforce and development funding to support GP resilience and improve patient care

Alleviate workload pressures on existing practice staff, so that general practice can be sustainable and thrive

Deliver the Government's commitment to improving patient access to quality healthcare services





# 3 Valleys Health Primary Care Network – who are we?

11 GP sites across rural N E Somerset:

St Chad's - Midsomer Norton and Chilcompton

Somerton House - Midsomer Norton

Westfield - Radstock

Chew Medical Practice

Harptree and Cameley

St Mary's - Timsbury

Elm Hayes - Paulton

Hope House - Radstock

Hillcrest - Peasedown St John





# 3 Valleys Health Primary Care Network

- Registered patient population 68,000
- Second largest Primary Care Network in BaNES, Swindon and Wiltshire
- A collective voice for rural and semi-rural GPs
- Board of GP Partners and PMs meet monthly to develop PCN strategy
- Every practice can access their fair share of PCN employed workforce support
- Experienced Senior Nurse Clinical Steering Group
- Collaborative 3 Valleys *Better* Health team of Social Prescribers and Care Co-ordinators working closely with our community partners
- PCN now a limited company - to directly employ PCN workforce



# PCN Workforce

50 PCN staff incl. Clinical Director, PCN Manager and Project Manager

Pharmacy – Clinical Pharmacists and Pharmacy Technicians

First Contact Practitioners - Physio

Physicians Associates – support for GPs

Social Prescribing Link Workers

Care Co-ordinators

Trainee Nurse Associate/Nurse Associate

General Practice Assistants

Home Visiting Paramedic/Nurse Practitioner

## What do they do?

- Stabilise General Practice - reducing high workloads
- Increase practice resilience and sustainability by mutual support
- Work at scale where this makes sense
- Broaden the skill mix within Primary Care
- Improve quality of care and services to local populations
- Strengthen the voice of Primary Care – patient and practice
- Enabling practices to become more environmentally sustainable



# 3 Valleys Health – PCN Leads

PCN funded GP Leads to drive improvement in the following key health areas:

Cancer

Care Homes

Clinical Pharmacy/Medicines Management

Health Inequalities

Population Health Management (Data/IIF)

PCN Nurse Representative

Established PCN IT peer support group – shared knowledge and expertise

Patient Research

## **System expertise within PCN**

Chair of BaNES Primary Care Collaborative ie. Voice of Primary Care – Dr Liz Hersch

BEMS GP Fed Director – Dr Chris Lewis

Wessex LMC Practice Manager representative – Caron Tremaine - Tucker

NHS Confederation PCN Manager National Group – Helen Harris



## Next steps for PCN

- Highly successful Covid-19 vaccination programme
- Using Population Health Analytics to consider how we tackle known health inequalities incl. Young People and focus on enhanced patient access
- Continue to identify and develop collaborative ways of working to improve patient and staff health and well-being eg. Group Consultations for patients across trial practices eg. women's health
- Additional late afternoon blood/specimen collection service
- The digital agenda – how can we support patients and improve practice efficiency
- Review practice estates to ensure we can accommodate an expanding team
- Identify 'greener' opportunities for primary care to be more sustainable
- Strengthen our community voice ie. use of social media and launch of PCN website:  
[Primary Care Network | Http://www.threevalleyshealth.co.uk/ | Three Valleys Health PCN](http://www.threevalleyshealth.co.uk/)
- Patient Forum – involving the chair from each practice PPG
- Lifestyle Medicine – involvement in green prescribing community projects
- Learning Organisation Accreditation – recognised 'kitemark' for attracting, developing and retaining a strong PCN workforce.