



## News and updates for primary care colleagues from your Confederation – December 2019

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### Welcome...



*Jim Barwick, CEO*

Welcome to our latest round-up of what's been happening and what's coming up at the Leeds GP Confederation.

As a member-led organisation, our role is to support practices and primary care networks (PCNs) to develop and flourish, so in this edition, you'll find information about how we're doing that through our clinical pharmacy and primary care development teams. We've also included the latest updates on new contracted mental wellbeing, social prescribing and cancer screening services.

We hope that you find this update useful and interesting. Please send any suggestions or comments to [leeds.confed@nhs.net](mailto:leeds.confed@nhs.net). As always, please get in touch if you have questions or would like more information about anything.



*Chris Mills, Chair*

On behalf of everyone at the Confederation, we'd like to thank you for all your support and involvement over the past 12 months and to wish you all a very merry Christmas, a happy Hanukkah and a great new year.

Best wishes,  
Jim & Chris

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## Latest from the Strategic Board

At its most recent meeting on 27 November, the Strategic Board

- Noted the need to set some principles around improving the health of the poorest fastest and how this should be reflected in the distribution and use of Confederation resources. A development session of Clinical Directors will be dedicated to this work and topic.
- Approved the proposed distribution of Pharmacy Technician resources by the Clinical Pharmacy Team.
- Approved in principle the setup of a project management office to support the development and involvement of practice managers in the work of the Confederation.
- Agreed to reflect back to their PCNs the discussion on the potential benefits of resourcing additional clinical roles within PCNs using a joint approach managed by the Confederation; CDs will bring the views of their PCNs on this to a future decision on the matter.
- The Director of Nursing and Allied Health Professionals committed to bring a worked up and costed proposal for supporting practice nurse training

More information from the Board is available [here](#).

### Confederation funding

The [attached report](#) provides an update on how funding provided to the Confederation has been spent and allocated and how this is delivering benefits to the Leeds primary care system and the member practices. A detailed accounting of the income and expenditure of the GP Confederation will be available through the year-end accounting process reports to the Strategic Board.

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## Supporting practices & PCNS - clinical pharmacy

### Developing PCNs

The Clinical Pharmacy Team continues to support PCNs to employ pharmacists by developing role descriptions, job descriptions, interview evaluation forms, person specifications, supporting with shortlisting and sitting on interview panels. The team actively encourages PCNs to plan their workforce needs and use full funding available by employing more than one pharmacist in 2019-20 where appropriate. We currently estimate that 30 pharmacists will be recruited to PCNs during this financial year.

### QOF

At the prescribing leads meetings in September, the Clinical Pharmacy Team facilitated sessions for 15 PCNs who signed up for support for the new quality improvement domain in the prescribing safety module of QOF 2019-20. In the December meetings, we're reviewing the impact of the implemented plan and subsequent outcomes.

### Integration

The Confederation Clinical Pharmacy Team is hosting the pharmacy workforce aligned to the new Virtual Frailty Ward (VFW), which is being piloted in Beeston and Middleton PCN. One pharmacist has started already, another is awaiting a start date and the technician will start in the new year. The team is also hosting and recruiting four pharmacy technicians for community care beds, which will help improve systems, processes and medicines safety for patients.

The team is working with LYPFT to introduce mental health liaison pharmacists and pharmacy technicians across the city to deliver a medicines optimisation service for people with serious mental illness, learning disabilities and/or autism requiring medications to help them manage their mental health. One pharmacist and one technician are currently in post and are starting to work with the West Leeds and LS 25/26 PCNs to establish an effective service for patients.

### Reducing inequalities, improving safety, increasing cost-effectiveness and reducing unwarranted variation

50% of senior pharmacist time and 70% technician time is dedicated to undertake clinical work within PCNs to reduce variations and inequalities.

Examples of current work	Number of reviews undertaken
Reviewing patients with known atrial fibrillation and at high risk of stroke not taking anti-coagulants	1377
Reviewing patients with moderate to severe frailty taking high number of medications	58 reviews – Oct 2019
Reviewing patients on insulin therapy not using correct equipment	315 from onset of project to Nov 2019
YAS referrals requesting patient reviews of those identified at risk of harm related to medications	204 from onset of project to Nov 2019

- For more information, please contact [Rebecca Gilroy](#)

### Supporting practices & PCNS – digital

**PCN laptops** – three laptops are available for mobile patient-facing staff, available on a first come, first served basis. If clinical directors haven't already submitted their requests, please contact [lucia.dey@nhs.net](mailto:lucia.dey@nhs.net) as soon as possible.

**PCN process mapping** – following on from the information gathered by the CCG IT team, a digital team will be working with two PCNs to map out all of the patient-facing processes to understand the gaps created when working as a PCN. This information will then be used to find the most suitable system to eliminate the gaps.

The first **Office365 pilot** has now launched. Training is underway for the LS25/26 PCN management team, digital champions and the Confederation digital team. They have a list of different functions to test to make sure they are getting the most out of it. To date the chat and video conferencing functions have been the most used.

- For more information, please contact [Lucia Dey](#)

## Supporting practices & PCNS – practice management

The role of practice manager is a vital part of the success of primary care. Their involvement in projects such as the Leeds Mental Wellbeing Service, social prescribing and integrated wound care has shown how important it is to involve them from the outset so they can ensure the successful mobilisation of a service. There is value too for practice manager professional and personal development in being involved in projects they are passionate about, building relationships with colleagues across city and then bringing this knowledge and expertise back to their practices and PCNs.

The introduction of PCNs has resulted in an increased workload for lead practice managers, as they have taken on a number of new responsibilities. To better support them, we have worked with a group of lead managers to review their meetings, communication and activity to understand how their voice can be strengthened to further benefit PCNs and service development and delivery.

At its meeting in November, the Strategic Board recognised the critical role that practice managers play in the success of practices and PCNs and approved a proposal to introduce a support programme, including support for meetings and an annual conference. A more detailed offer will be presented at the next Strategic Board in January.

- For more information, please contact [Lucia Dey](#)

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## New services - Leeds Mental Wellbeing Service

The soft launch of the new Leeds Mental Wellbeing Service (LMWS) is now underway.

People can self-refer to the new service now. If you are supporting people to do this, please start referring to the Leeds Mental Wellbeing Service, rather than to IAPT or CBT, so that patients don't get confused.

The [new LMWS website](#) is now live and includes new [on-line psycho-education](#) classes (known as Omnitherapy). People can directly book on to classes to get support for their mental wellbeing. Courses include

- Panic attacks
- Managing stress in parenthood
- Depression
- Understanding self-esteem
- Bereavement
- Mindfulness
- Postnatal depression

These services are available now. Some promotion will start in January 2020, with a full launch and promotion planned from April 2020. Timelines [for staff](#) and [for patients](#) are attached.

## Mobilising primary care mental health staff

We are mobilising the primary care mental health staff (previously known as primary care liaison - PCL) in the first eight PCNs with the highest level of deprivation.

Six of the eight have had some level of primary care liaison support working at practice-level; this capacity will be increased and staff will work across the PCN to support patients.

All staff recruited in November have started seeing patients. Mental health specialists (LYPFT employed) and practitioners (3rd sector employed) are in place. The mental health support roles will work between the PCN and other partners in the network. Their focus will be to support those who find it harder to engage with mental health services and may need more support to access talking therapies; we expect some of these staff to start after the New Year.

The wider roll out of primary care mental health staff to remainder of city will start in April 2020 (depending on recruitment).

### LMWS contacts

[Amelia Letima](#) is the main link between the LMWS partnership and PCNs.

[Dr Jon Adams](#) and [Dr Lesley Sunderland](#) are the Confederation's clinical leads for the service, leading on aspects of the mobilisation and the continuous model review and governance.

[Linda Thompson](#) and [Chloe Rankin](#) are another source of contact for PCNs to feedback good news, concerns and challenges so we can work to get this service mobilisation right and responsive to any challenges over the coming 12 months.

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### New services - citywide social prescribing

Confederation, CCG and practice manager colleagues have been working with the new social prescribing providers to help them understand the importance of integration with primary care systems.

As the three former social prescribing models came together into one contract, very different approaches to record sharing, appointment booking and referrals emerged. Although referrals are coming in, there are different processes across the city. We are currently working with Linking Leeds to test the remote appointment direct booking facility, piloting it in one PCN to see if we can streamline booking/referral processes for both practices and Linking Leeds staff.

We have also worked to agree a record sharing principle that GP practices as data controllers can sign up to and are exploring what GP Connect and SLIP can offer to avoid duplication in working with EMIS practices.

- For more information, please contact [amelia.letima@nhs.net](mailto:amelia.letima@nhs.net)

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### New services - cancer screening and awareness coordinators

In April, Yorkshire Cancer Research committed £2m to drive cancer prevention and early diagnosis across Leeds through the employment of screening and awareness coordinators covering each primary care network.

The project is the culmination of collaborations between the Confederation, CCG, City Council and Yorkshire Cancer Research. It is one of several projects within the prevention work stream of the Leeds Cancer Programme and represents matrix working and integration across the organisations.

Over three years, the scheme will deliver a network of hubs, and the new roles will coordinate activity at scale to deliver improved patient outcomes. The coordinators will be fully embedded within primary care and will support PCNs to progress towards reaching national screening targets for bowel, breast and cervical cancers as well as driving awareness and understanding of risk factors and signs and symptoms of cancer in their local populations.

Working with a cancer screening and awareness coordinator, PCNs will be able to develop their own model and action plan to reflect the specific demographics and requirements of their population. The scheme will provide opportunities for PCNs to develop and test approaches aimed at increasing screening uptake and awareness raising activities with partners in care.

The coordinators will link data sources, understand the specific resources and identify obstacles and barriers to screening uptake and facilitate the targeted implementation of resource within the areas of highest need. They will use local knowledge to development appropriate and targeted materials and work with partners to join up initiatives and reduce duplication of effort and identify ways in which they can motivate the community to take-up their national screening invitations.

The impact of this work will reach far wider than cancer as we embed principles around improving lifestyle choices and driving behaviour change at an individual level. The [attached draft logic model](#) outlines what we believe to be achievable through the implementation of this project at an LCP level and the evaluation framework currently in development will build on these principles and key outcomes.

- For more information, please contact [Matthew King](#)
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## Working together - integrated wound clinics

The integrated wound care project is moving at pace. Following wave one, six PCNS now have an integrated wound clinic (IWC), providing 17 clinics per week varying from half day clinics to full days. The clinics see approximately 136 patients per week with this capacity expected to increase. Wave two of the programme starts this month and will include the PCNs that expressed an interest but don't have a wound care clinic set up.

There is a lot of collaborative work going on around structures and processes to ensure we have an accurate understanding of wound care in the city. The project team are currently writing a business case to support this work moving forward.

- For more information, please contact [Helen Wilkinson](#)
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## PCN Leadership development

The [NHS Leadership Academy](#) offers a wide range of learning and development programmes for people of all backgrounds and experiences across health and care. Specifically for primary care, they have produced a new e-book that outlines how they can help you and your organisation.

The updated brochure is now available to [download here](#).

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## Upcoming meetings & events

The [three-month forward plan](#) for clinical directors has been updated, showing which meetings are essential, recommended and of interest.

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## Partner news & events

### Student mental health sandpit – inviting expressions of interest

**Wednesday 12 February 2020 | 13:00 - 16:00 | University of Leeds**

*This is open to anyone but may be of particular interest to LSMP and LS6 practices.*

The Cultural Institute and Dr Bridgette Bewick invite expressions of interest from colleagues interested in student mental health to contribute to a sandpit.

This sandpit will bring together practitioners and researchers in the arts and humanities with practitioners and researchers from health and social sciences. By drawing on our differences in methodologies and values we will generate new insights into identifying problems and developing solutions that address the social, cultural, and academic aspects of student mental health and wellbeing. We will begin development of collaborative projects that can draw on the considerable funding opportunities available for interdisciplinary work on mental health and wellbeing.

If you're interested, please email [culturalinstitute@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:culturalinstitute@leeds.ac.uk) by **21 January 2020**, briefly stating your area of interest or expertise, and the kind of work you are interested to develop.

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## More information about the Confederation

As our work develops, we want to make sure you're kept involved in and informed:

**Meetings:** we regularly give updates and seek feedback at primary care network meetings; practice manager, nurse and pharmacy lead meetings; members' meetings; TARGET; and our strategic board. If you represent your network or practice at any of these meetings, please make sure you keep your colleagues updated.

**Briefings and updates:** we are aiming to send out general Confederation updates every two to three months, with more localised briefings for primary care networks in the alternating months.

As part of a joint project with the CCG to reduce duplication and streamline communications, operational information, data, procedures and so on will be shared via the **primary care bulletin** and **extranet**.

**Website:** if you'd like to know more about what the Confederation does, how decisions are made and who's who, please visit [our website](#).

**Twitter:** Follow us @LeedsGP

In the meantime, if you are aware of any colleagues who are not receiving these updates or if you have any suggestions for improving the information you get from the Confederation, please let us know.

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## Key contacts

- General enquiries - 0113 843 0785 / [leeds.confed@nhs.net](mailto:leeds.confed@nhs.net) / [www.leedsgpconfederation.org.uk](http://www.leedsgpconfederation.org.uk)
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