

PRIMARY CARE NETWORK PATIENT NEWSLETTER



The Network is formed
**Monument Surgeries
(Galleries / Barmston)**

0191 543 8807

**Dr Stephenson and
Partners**

0191 4162578

**Galleries Medical Prac-
tice**

0191 543 5555

**Concord Medical Prac-
tice**

0191 4173557

**New Washington Medi-
cal Group**

0191 563 4929

Harraton Surgery

0191 416 1641

**Rickleton Medical Prac-
tice**

0191 415 0576

Welcome

Dear Patients,

This Primary Care Network Newsletter is a bit different and has been created by the local surgeries in Washington. (Monument Surgeries (Galleries/Barmston), Dr Stephenson and Partners, Galleries Medical Practice, Concord Medical Practice, New Washington Medical Group and IJ Healthcare.

The reason is that surgeries in Washington are coming together to share ideas and cooperate with each other to improve patient care. Each group is called a Primary Care Network (PCN).

Primary Care Networks

PCNs are part of a nationwide NHS scheme aimed at bringing health and social care closer to peoples' homes and also tailoring the surgeries' services to meet the needs of local people.

PCNs are clusters of neighbouring GP surgeries which have teamed up to start providing patients with a wider range of health and wellbeing services, specifically geared towards the needs of their local areas.

This means that, over time, you may have easier access to things like a Clinical Pharmacist, Physiotherapist, Community Paramedic or Social Prescriber. This has already started, for example all practices in Washington now have Social Prescribers and a Clinical Pharmacist.

They will be on hand to help with a wide range of social, emotional, mental health and wellbeing issues and will work together with the GPs in our Network to give you a more joined up care service.



**GP online services
Quick, easy and secure**

- Book GP appointments
- Order repeat prescriptions
- Access your GP records



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You may be wondering...

Q1: What is a Primary Care Network?

Surgeries across the country are teaming up into small groups. Each group is called a Primary Care Network.

Q2: Why do we need it?

PCNs are part of a nationwide scheme aimed at bringing health and social care closer to people's homes and tailoring the services to meet the needs of local people.

Each PCN is based around natural local communities typically serving populations of between 30,000 and 50,000.

They should be small enough to maintain the traditional strengths of general practice, but large enough to provide resilience and the development of integrated teams.

Q3: Why group the surgeries together?

There is a long history of all the local surgeries working well together. The grouped surgeries are like minded with a common approach and shared vision to provide great service for patients.

Q4: How will it affect me as a patient?

Your surgery, the Doctors and Nurses and the appointments available will not change.

Behind the scenes the surgeries will be sharing ideas and looking at how services can be improved and expanded.

They will provide more flexible access to advice and support for 'healthier' sections of the population and better integrated care for those with complex conditions.



**Meet Hazel Taylor
our Clinical Director
for Washington Pri-
mary Care Network**

**In our next Newslet-
ter Hazel will be fo-
cusing on different
self care topics to
support the Patients
of Washington**



**All Together
Better**

Better Health and Care
for Sunderland

An advertisement for the NHS App. It features a smartphone displaying the NHS logo and the text 'How are you feeling today?' and 'Check symptoms'. To the right, the NHS logo is shown above the text 'The NHS App' and 'Simple and secure access to a range of healthcare services'.

How are our GP practices sup- porting local patients?

Throughout the pandemic, local practices in the Washington have been open with staff working harder than ever to make sure patients still have access to high quality healthcare, with all practices offering Patient appointments daily.