



NEWS FROM THE BLACK COUNTRY PRIMARY CARE COLLABORATIVE

CHRISTMAS 2023

As we move into winter and the increased pressure that we all face in our practices, I want to keep you all updated with developments of the Black Country Primary Care Collaborative to support us all.

As a collaborative we met together in Walsall recently with ICB colleagues to discuss the financial challenges and pressures across the Black Country. This was a good opportunity for us to highlight the pressure faced by primary care. We then had some good discussions to develop our priorities and work programme into some clear actions. We will share this with you all soon.

As chair I have continued to have regular dialogue with senior ICB leaders to keep our priorities on the agenda.



I updated you before about the procurement of a strategic partner to support us in developing a strategy for primary care over the next 5 years to address some of our challenges and consider opportunities. I'm pleased this work is now starting to commence and the Black Country Collaborative met with them all recently to share our ideas. There will be several opportunities in the new year to engage with you all about this and this will be shared with you all soon.



I'm also really happy to announce we have appointed Rachael Thornton from Dudley as our vice chair. It's really important we build our leadership capacity to work with the ICB and other partners and I'm delighted, Rachael, a Primary Care Pharmacist and Clinical Director from Dudley has taken up this post.

Finally, let me finish by wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year – I hope you and your families all get to spend some quality time together. I'm really excited about what can all achieve collaboratively in 2024 and look forward to working together in the new year. If you have any questions, comments, or views on the future of primary care please feel free to reach out to myself, Rachael or any the ICB Primary Care Team:

- Sarb Basi as Director of Primary Care - sarbjit.basi@nhs.net,
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Rachael Thornton, Vice Chair – rachael.thornton@nhs.net

Pharmacist and Clinical Director of Stourbridge, Wollescote and Lye PCN

