

NEWS FROM THE BLACK COUNTRY PRIMARY CARE COLLABORATIVE

FEBRUARY 2024

Happy belated New Year to you all!

We hope that as we move into what is usually the busiest times of year that you remember to look after yourselves and your practice staff. We cannot stress enough the importance of supporting each other's health and wellbeing under the current pressures of working in Primary Care. We continue to raise this as a priority to the ICB as your Black Country Primary Care Collaborative representatives.

You will all no doubt be feeling a little anxious about the increasing cases of measles across the Black Country and we would urge you to continue to follow local and National advice as it is communicated. We have re-iterated the need for assistance in general practice to enable us to comply with the NHS England and HPA guidelines. It is also important that we learn the lessons from COVID and ensure that all of us are implementing robust virtual (telephone and video) triage. There are some good links to safe telephone triage on the SEPSIS Trust website:

<https://sepsistrust.org/professional-resources/our-clinical-tools/> and I would encourage you to review these.

We need to balance this with some reassurance in the knowledge that 80-90% of the population, even the under 12's have had at least 1 MMR vaccination which will offer significant protection.



We've shared previously that the ICB has appointed a Strategic Partner to work alongside us to develop a sustainable, resilient and high quality primary care service. This work has now commenced and some of you may already have joined Price Waterhouse Coopers (PWC) and Health Integration Partners (HIP), in stakeholder meetings. The BCPC has positioned itself securely as a partner in this work and will be instrumental in co-designing transformation with your Primary Care collaboratives at Place.

It is important that we all have the opportunity contribute to this work to give us all the maximum chance of developing a sustainable future for both Primary Care our patients. If you haven't already been invited to an engagement event to contribute to this transformation work please contact your ICB Place Team as soon as possible or speak to one of the ICB Primary Care Team (details below).

Secondly, we anticipate 2024 will be a big year for the Black Country Primary Care Collaborative as we look to continue to evolve and grow into a structure to represent the voice of primary care but to also lead and implement transformational change. We are really keen to ensure that everyone working in primary care, namely, GP practices, Pharmacy, Optometry and Dentistry grow their voice through their own Primary Care Collaboratives and that this is taken to the BCPCC to influence system change through a collaboration and a unified voice. We have started this process with the recent inclusion of Pharmacy representation onto the BCPCC and in the future we will look forward to Optometry and Dentistry joining.

We continue to develop the clinical leadership team in the BCPCC and have recently appointed leads in the following areas as interim positions to help us deliver on our BCPCC work objectives:

- Transformation: Sarah Southall and Dr Mona Sidhu
- Finance and Resources: Dr Arun Saini
- Sustainable Access and Quality: Dr Ruth Edwards
- Engagement and Integration: Dr Sommiya Aslam
- Workforce and Infrastructure: Dr Rashi Gulati

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,
- Angela Poulton as Associate Director – Primary Care (Strategy and Transformation) - angela.poulton@nhs.net,
- Matt Wilkinson, Primary Care Collaborative – Programme Manager (Interim) - matthew.wilkinson10@nhs.net.

Dr Ryan Hobson, Chair - ryan.hobson@nhs.net

GP at Umbrella Medical Partnership in Walsall and Clinical Director of Walsall South 2 PCN

Rachael Thornton, Vice Chair – rachael.thornton@nhs.net

Pharmacist and Clinical Director of Stourbridge, Wollescote and Lye PCN