

# **CENTRAL & SOUTH KNOWSLEY**

## PRIMARY CARE NETWORK

#### **Autumn 2024 Newsletter**



## What is a PCN?

Primary Care Networks (PCNs) are a key aspect of the NHS Long Term Plan, with general practices being a part of the network. PCNs, and the structures and funding they provide, allow services to be developed locally, in response to the needs of the patients in their area. PCNs are formed through local GP practices agreeing to work together and with the wider health and social organisations.

Primary Care Networks (PCNs) have the potential to:
-Improve coordination of services for patients
-Support GPs to deliver high-quality care
-Support GP involvement in wider NHS decision-making

-Offer improved access and an extended range of available care services closer to home -Help integrate primary care with wider health and community services

### **ARRS Staff Project**

We have recently appointed a new PCN manager, Victoria Knight. Vicky joined our team in May this year. She has a background of Practice Management over many years and is extremely excited about the project ahead and looking forward to working with all 11 practices and getting to know everyone.

We currently have 2 social prescribers, 4 care co-ordinators, 5 nurse practitioners, 11 pharmacists, 4 paramedics and 1 first contact practitioner across our PCN and have been working hard to allocate these staff members and implement their work plans with the support of Vicky. We are regularly working with other PCNs on areas of need and implementing these needs into staff workplans to deliver the best service possible to our patients.

# Patient engagement event

We participated in the 'Patient Engagement' event at New Hutte Neighbourhood Centre in Halewood on the 30th May in partnership with Explore Partnership. Our team of Social Prescribers and Care Co-ordinators promoted their services across Knowsley as to why a GP isn't always required and how to utilise services. The event was a huge success, the sun was shining, and a lovely day was had by all.

#### **Training**

Over the last 3 months, the PCN has been busy bringing all staff training up to date including Medical Terminology Training, Basic Life Support & CPR training and Chaperone training for all nonclinical staff. We are always happy, as a PCN to source what regular training is available for all staff and are happy to support our staff in their future training and development.

#### Menopause group clinics pilot:

We have been piloting a project lead by Dr Victoria Hoyle at The Hollies Medical Centre where group consultations have been held to support women going through the menopause, this service offers a complete community/holistic health service. This has been hugely successful and has delivered high quality care for our patients, so much so that this will be introduced across all 11 practices across our PCN and a possibility of Dr Hoyle expanding this project across other PCNs within our region! Menopause is part of the Women's Health Agenda in 2024 so it is great news that Central & South Knowsley PCN are leading in this.