



PATIENT GUIDE TO PRIMARY CARE NETWORKS

Healthwatch Isle of Wight is an independent consumer champion for health and social care. We want to ensure that patients understand changes to services.

This leaflet aims to give clear information about the new Primary Care Networks.

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WHAT IS A PRIMARY CARE NETWORK?

In January 2019, the new GP Framework was published encouraging GP surgeries to work together to serve patient populations of 30,000 - 50,000, in return for additional funding.

This 'group of surgeries' is called a Primary Care Network (PCN).

2

WHAT IS THE POINT OF A PCN?

By working together, practices will have scope to offer a wider range of services to patients than would be possible for individual practices. This would include services such as physiotherapy, extended access or social prescribing.

A network of practices will not only help individual surgeries to become more resilient but will enable them to offer a wider choice of appointments to patients.

3

WHAT IS A SOCIAL PRESCRIBER?

This is a person who can make referrals to community based advice, support or resources. Sometimes a community group is the best organisation to support an individual and social prescribers can help make those connections. The Social Prescriber will meet with the patient face to face to assess how much of their health and wellbeing needs can be met by existing community groups.

They will, together with the patient, produce a simple, personalised care and support plan to provide a person-centred, holistic approach to health care.

Where appropriate, the Social Prescriber can refer back to other health care professionals within the Primary Care Network.

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IS MY SURGERY PART OF A PRIMARY CARE NETWORK?

Although it is not a contractual requirement for all GP Practices to be part of a Primary Care Network, it is more than likely that your Surgery now belongs to one.

On the Island, there are 3 Networks:

- **Central West** - Newport, Carisbrooke, Cowes & Freshwater
- **North & East** - East Cowes, Ryde & St. Helen's
- **South** - Ventnor, Shanklin, Sandown, Brading, Niton

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WHAT WILL CHANGE FOR ME?

You may not notice much change to begin with, but over time, you may see a wider range of services becoming available in your local surgery or near to where you live. Practices will also work more closely together to manage appointment options more effectively.

For more information, please contact Healthwatch Isle of Wight on enquiries@healthwatchisleofwight.co.uk

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