**2nd September 2024**

**Community Pharmacy PCN Integration Leads – Exciting Opportunities available across Devon!**

Would you like to help shape the way PCNs provide integrated care across community pharmacies and GP practices?

We know that existing and former Community Pharmacy PCN leads have played a critical role in supporting the engagement between community pharmacy and PCNs and we are hoping to build on this approach. There is an expectation that pharmacies will be integrated as a full partner within development of Primary Care Networks in the future, doing more to protect public health and taking on an expanded role in urgent care and medicines safety. Services such as the Discharge Medicines Service (DMS); Community Pharmacist Consultation Service (CPCS) and the Hypertension Case Finding Service are instrumental in this.

Primary Care Networks (PCNs) remain a key component of the NHS Long Term Plan with all general practices being required to be in a network. PCNs are challenged to take an innovative approach to strengthening and redesigning primary care. An essential component of primary care is Community Pharmacy and the role of Community Pharmacy PCN Integration Leads has been designed to support closer working between Community Pharmacy and the local health and care system to provide better patient care.

The value of the Community Pharmacy PCN Integration Lead has been largely recognised by both the local and regional NHS systems, and consequently the regional NHSE pharmacy team last year funded the development of a leadership academy and protected time for the PCN Community Pharmacy leads across the southwest region.

Due to the success of the programme last year, we are really excited to announce that the South West Regional Pharmacy team has secured further funding to continue this programme into 2025.

As well as providing a voice for community pharmacy and becoming the local champion of community pharmacy within the designated PCN area; the overall aims of the role include the following:

* Liaison with PCN based Pharmacists or Clinical Director (or other designated key contact) regarding PCN initiatives and priorities, and to communicate these to their pharmacies. This should include but is not limited to Pharmacy First, the Hypertension Case Finding Service and Contraception Service.
* Liaise with the Community Pharmacy teams across the PCN geographical footprint.
* Link in with Community Pharmacy Devon, the Devon integrated care system and other stakeholders on potential pathway changes and service development opportunities.
* Embed the community pharmacy voice within the PCN ensuring sustainability.
* Develop good working relationships with all pharmacies aligned to the PCN and any other pharmacies not aligned but having an interest due to geographical boundaries.
* Improve communication channels between the community pharmacy network, practices and PCN.

**What the role does not include!**

**The Community Pharmacy PCN Integration Lead is a facilitator and advocate for community pharmacies, but they are not responsible for managing the performance of individual pharmacies, distributing pharmaceutical messages from other providers, acting as a representative body, making decisions on behalf of other community pharmacies, coercing pharmacies to act in a certain way or providing clinical advice or services. These actions are not within the scope of the role.**

**Funding** has been agreed at £300 per day at least to the end of this financial year, likely to involve 9-10 days in total to include attendance (face to face or virtual) at local training sessions or locality wide meetings. Flexibility can be applied in terms of when activity takes place dependent on the individual’s circumstance and preference for working.

The Community Pharmacy PCN Integration Lead does not have to be a pharmacist, it can be a technician or anyone working in the community pharmacy environment who has the interest and motivation to take on the role.

**What support will be available?**

Community Pharmacy Devon will act as a key point of contact for advice and support.

The Devon Community Pharmacy Development group (Devon CPDG) will help to facilitate communications or meetings with Clinical Directors and other relevant personnel in PCNs

Supporting with relevant meetings, networking opportunities, learning from other Community Pharmacy Leads.

The LPC will provide updates and share relevant information about service opportunities, relevant national and ICS-wide priorities and policies and key sources of information.

Help to facilitate sharing of best practice information from other Community Pharmacy leads in the region.

Attached is a list of the PCNs where there are current vacancies for the role and an Expression of Interest for completion and returning to Sue Taylor at Community Pharmacy Devon, by midday on Friday September 20th 2024.

If you have any questions or would like further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sue Taylor, Chief Officer

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