

# Black Country STP

## **Establishing Primary Care Networks STP Timeline & Approval Principles**

### Introduction & Background

Over the coming months CCGs will be heavily involved in dialogue with member practices regarding the formation of their Primary Care Networks. There will be a series of actions taking place in line with the five year framework for GP Contract Reform : Investment & Evolution this guidance contains a series of critical dates that affect both CCGs and the STP.

### Requirements of PCNs

Networks must be able to function in line with national guidance and expectations regarding delivery of care closer to home. The reality of aligning not only practices but also other community services is a critical factor to how the networks will function. that will inform the application process.

All member practices are expected to register with a PCN. The registration process will be managed at CCG level and comprise of the following information:-

- i) All practices aligned to a network
- ii) Networks within sensible geography
- iii) All practices within each network have signed the Network Agreement (contract holders only)
- iv) Single provider/practice that will receive funding
- v) Named accountable clinical director

Core to a network is collaboration and integration at community level to enable patients to access services tailored to communities, provided by multiple professionals both in and outside the network. Networks are expected collective population size of 30-50,000 patients, networks of less than 30,000 do not meet the nationally defined criteria may be considered by exception.

CCGs are responsible for ensuring the above requirements are satisfied within the timescale(s) outlined in the table below. The geography should be natural & sensible in order for the network to function. The guidance does make reference to overlap being acceptable i.e. *most network areas will not overlap but this is not an absolute rule. Should boundaries overlap networks should be willing to collaborate on wider place based goals. A practice catchment area may continue to span more than one network.* Emphasis is placed on the functionality of a PCN and how they are served by other stakeholder services such as community nurse, community geriatricians, dementia workers & other community based services.

By 15 May 2019 CCGs will have received submissions from each of their Primary Care Networks in line with the requirements listed above. At this point the CCG will be responsible for confirming that the registration requirements have been met, they have to confirm this to NHS England by 31 May 2019.



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In anticipation of this CCGs are encouraged to assemble a panel to enable consideration and approval, all network applications should be confirmed at the same time. The panel should comprise of the following personnel as a minimum:-

- Director of Nursing
- Director of Commissioning
- Director of Primary Care and/or Head of Primary Care
- LMC Chair
- Lay Member responsible for Patient & Public Engagement

CCGs may wish to invite other stakeholders to their respective panel meetings from provider organisations, Healthwatch etc this is discretionary and not a mandatory requirement as relationships and commissioning/contracting arrangements at local level should provide sufficient assurance regarding functionality to support each network from July onwards. Approval will be in line with contract requirements.

### STP Assurance Process

In anticipation of these timescales the STP will be maintaining close liaison with CCG colleagues to ensure timely progress is being made for each of the following areas;

Date	CCG Action	STP Assurance
January – April 2019	PCNs prepare to meet the Network Contract DES registration requirements	Primary Care Leads confirm progress & raise queries/concerns via fortnightly meetings that in turn are clarified with SRO & Clinical Lead. CCGs are supporting practices & arranging approval panels for 16 & 17 May 2019.
By 27 March 2019	NHS England & GPC England jointly issue the Network Agreement and 2019/20 Network Contract DES	STP Assurance Process developed & agreed with SRO & Clinical Lead Reassurance to NHSE regarding preparedness.
By 15 May 2019	All Primary Care Networks submit registration information to their CCG	CCGs confirm receipt of applications from their membership in line with Network DES/Application Form. Number approved and/or any exceptions to PCN Guidance. CCGs should confirm 100% alignment of all member practices as per requirements of the guidance i.e. practices, map, CD etc in line with the contract. CCG Primary Care Leads confirm the outcome of their panel meetings to GPFV Programme Director by 20 May 2019 (including exceptions) Information will be shared with SRO & CLG
By 31 May 2019	CCGs confirm network coverage & approve variation to GMS/PMS/APMS Contracts	STP work with CCGs to resolve issues where 100% alignment has not been achieved. SRO & CLG review STP application status & agree next steps ( <i>date to be confirmed but likely to be 23 May 2019</i> ). Assurance that contract variations have been completed by 31 May 2019.



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Early June 2019	NHS England and GPC England jointly work with the CCGs and LMCs to resolve any issues	STP receive regular updates on progress made where issues are being resolved (weekly) that will be shared with STP SRO & CLG until all member practices are suitably aligned & documented evidence is in place. Confirmation of CCG Governance arrangements with Clinical Directors & Clinical Chairs linked to STP Clinical Leadership Group.
1 July 2019	Network Contract DES goes live across 100% of the country	Rolled out via Primary Care Leads & standing item on monthly meetings. STP strategies ie Workforce, Primary Care etc updated to reflect CCG map(s) of PCNs and also confirm how networks will be engaged in the implementation of all relevant work programmes.
July 2019 – March 2020	National entitlements under the 2019/20 Network Contract start: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Year 1 of the additional workforce reimbursement scheme</li> <li>• Ongoing support funding for the Clinical Director</li> <li>• Ongoing £1.50 per head from CCG Allocations</li> </ul>	Linkage with CLG established & large scale STP wide event arranged at <i>quarterly intervals</i> .
April 2020 onwards	National Network Services start under the 2020/21 Network Contract DES	

### Neighbouring STPs

STPs in neighbouring areas will be adopting a similar approach particularly where there are practices close to CCG/STP borders that require joint consideration/approval, particularly in the case of Sandwell & West Birmingham who are currently undertaking a consultation on potential movement of practices in West Birmingham to BSOL STP.

### Governance Options

There are likely to be in the region of 30 Primary Care Networks spanning the Black Country footprint, each will have a Clinical Director formally appointed by 1 July focussed on delivery against the Network DES & responsibilities contained within the role description. Initial priorities will be:-

- Influencing leading & supporting development of relationships across the network
- Providing strategic leadership for workforce development & development of a network workforce strategy
- Network implementation of agreed service changes, pathways and deliver local improvement Programmes
- Work closely with fellow clinical directors, clinical leaders of health & social care & LMCs



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- Take part in research studies acting as a link between the network(s)
- Represent the network at CCG level meetings and ICS/STP

The wider clinical governance arrangements for PCNs will be defined & implemented by 1 July 2019. A series of events will be taking place from March 2019 lead by NHS England (March) and the STP Clinical Leadership Group (April) will pave the way for more formal arrangements to be agreed to ensure there is linkage between individual networks at CCG level and the wider clinical leadership at STP level.

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