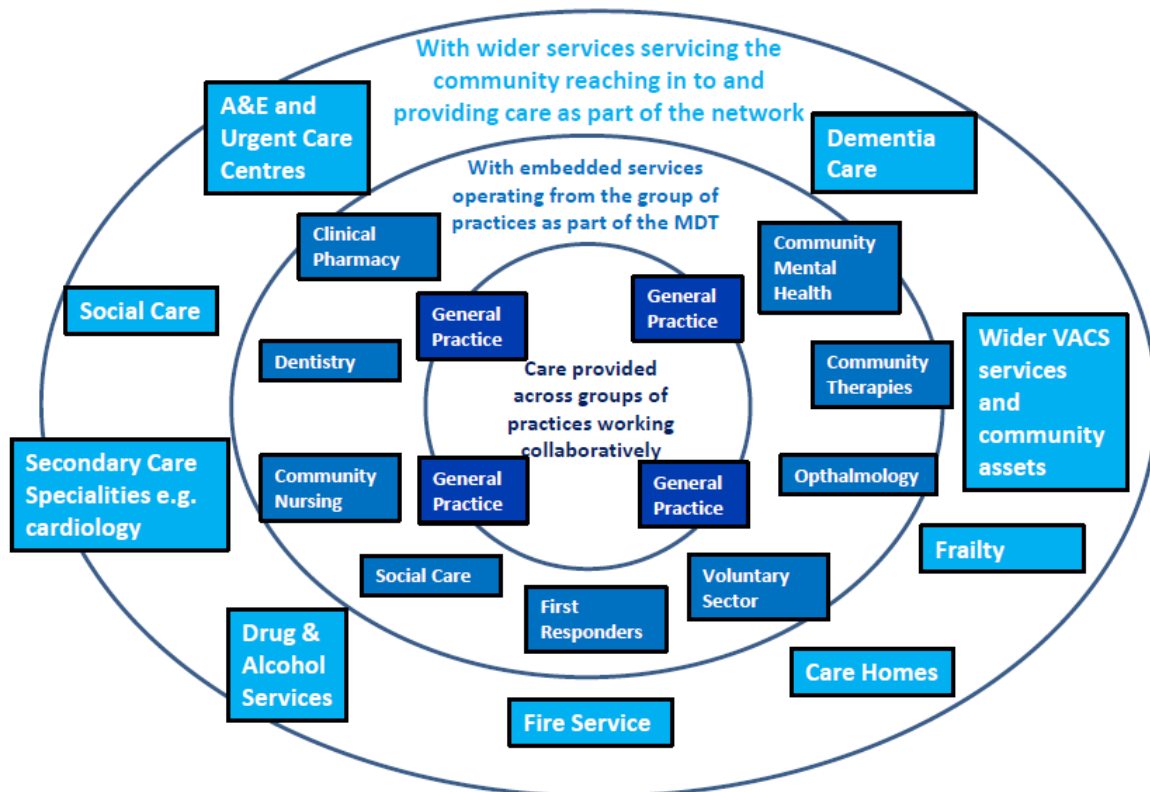


PRIMARY CARE NETWORKS

Our population continues to grow and people are living very much longer. A lot of patients are living with long term conditions such as heart disease, mental health issues and diabetes, in turn may need to access local health services more often.

To meet these needs practices across the country are forming Primary Care Networks and working together with their local community services. PCNs enable greater provision of personalised, proactive, integrated health and social care. In this first year 2019/20 PCNs will be forming and dealing with the administration and governance arrangements but from 2020/21 services and care models will develop.

Primary Care Networks



In Harpenden the 3 surgeries The Elms Medical Practice, The Village Surgery and Davenport House have formed a Primary Care Network serving a community of circa 46,000 patients.

The development of PCNs will mean that patient and the public will be able to access:

- Resilient high-quality care from local clinicians and health and care practitioners, with more services provided out of hospital and closer to home

- a more comprehensive and integrated set of services that anticipate rising demand and support higher levels of self-care
- appropriate referrals and more 'one-stop shop' services where all of a patient's needs can be met at the same time
- different care models for different population groups (such as frail older persons, adults with complex needs, children) that are person-centred rather than disease centred

The Harpenden Primary Care Network is only in its infancy however we have already won a local CCG bid for a new pilot service in the community which we have called '**HASTY**'. Across the UK and indeed in our own locality there is an increasing anxiety in teenagers and young people. As local GPs we recognise this on a daily basis but we have limited access to talking therapies, which tend to have long waiting times and only be available to those children with the most severe mental health problems.

HASTY is a local mental health service set up by the three Harpenden practices The Elms Medical Practice, The Village Surgery and Davenport House. It is a pilot running for 6 months from 25.2.2019. The aim is to provide help early on to try and avoid difficulties escalating and reduce the need for referral out of primary care.

All three surgeries are also currently working with a community pharmacist. Clinical pharmacists are highly qualified in medicines. It is a patient facing role and taken on to help maintain and improve people's health by providing information and advice on their medication, reviewing on-going health problems and improving the patient's outcome. This means that the GP can focus their skills where that are most needed for example diagnosing and treating patients with more complex conditions.

Another area the PCN will focus on will be community referring or the buzz words 'Social Prescribing'. This enables GPs, Nurse and other Primary Care professionals to address people's needs in a more holistic way by referring to a range of local, non-clinical services typically provided by voluntary and community organisations for example local walking groups, Parkrun, Hertshelp, Carers in Herts, healthy eating advice and the list goes on. Watch this space for further developments.