*Template newsletter copy for use by CCGs/STPs and or stakeholders to assist in delivering key message to local areas*

**HLP launches the ‘Next Steps’ for general practice collaboration**

Healthy London Partnership has launched the ‘Next Steps to the Strategic Commissioning Framework – a vision for strengthening general practice.’ The framework provides guidance and resources that will support practices to develop high quality larger-scale general practice collaboration across London. This has been developed together with the Londonwide LMCs London STPs, CCGs and overseen by the Primary Care Clinical Cabinet.

General practice is at the heart of the health service and has served patients, citizens and service users and the NHS for over 70 years; providing expert generalist and holistic care and acts as the gateway for those with health concerns, episodic and long term health conditions.

Current workforce is under increasing pressure and GPs are facing a growing workload as a large proportion of GPs in the capital are nearing retirement age and practice nurses are becoming increasingly difficult to recruit. Patients’ needs are also changing, both in the complexity of their conditions and in their expectations.

In 2015 the offer to the system was the ‘Transforming Primary Care in London: A Strategic Commissioning Framework’ which set out a bold new vision for primary care in the capital. Much work has been done and great successes have been achieved; London now has more GPs in training, a broader skill mix in our primary care workforce, greater use of digital technology and 100% extended access for patients across London.

**Dr Michelle Drage, Chief Executive, Londonwide Local Medical Committees says:**

*"As demand for general practice services continues to increase and grow in complexity, putting great pressure on the people working within it and stretching the resources at their disposal, practices of all sizes need support to adapt and transform to meet this challenge, while retaining the values of general practice.*

*“This document considers how practices can collaborate and develop ways of working together which are the right fit for them, while acknowledging that there is no single approach which works for every set of circumstances.*

*"Many of the biggest innovations in the 70 year history of the NHS have come from within GP surgeries. Given the right tools London general practice can continue to meet the needs of patients, while managing the challenges of the modern NHS.”*

**Dr Jonty Heaversedge, Medical Director for Primary Care and Digital Transformation (London Region) says:**

*‘’The Next Steps for general practices in London describes an essential ambition to improve patient care whilst ensuring a sustainable future for general practice at the heart of new models of integrated care in London.  We have already seen how working together at greater scale is making a difference and enabled us to provide access to high-quality care in the evenings and at weekends for every Londoner. We recognise the opportunity to build on this, working with other community services and using digital technology to transform the way care is delivered in Primary Care Networks. Central to this vision is the need to protect the core values of general practice and ensure that patients who need it can access on-going, whole-person care with their local practice team – ensuring that we are able to be both big and small at the same time.*

 *‘’London is one of the most populous and diverse cities in the world; we want London to be the healthiest city in the world, and to achieve this we must secure the sustainability of general practice now and in future. The Next Steps for general practices in London aims to support practices to develop the skills and expertise they need for a vibrant future at the heart of new models of integrated care.*

*‘’The Next Steps for general practices in London shows that by working together at larger scale, we can continue providing patients with personalised, whole-person care at practice and network level. The framework also provides strategic support to strengthen leadership within larger-scale general practice organisations; giving practices a greater collective voice”*

# Professor Sir Sam Everington, Chair of the London Clinical Commissioning Council, said:

*“With the support of all five Sustainability and Transformation Partnerships and our regional clinical cabinet for primary care, we are setting out a clear, achievable vision for how general practice organisations can work collaboratively at scale. We must continue to learn from best practice as we proceed, building on existing evidence, using emerging evidence on new models of care, and making sure that the value and values of general practice are not lost in the process.*

*“The Next Steps for general practices in London brings together learning from across London, the country, and the rest of the world. It will take forward at scale working in a way that is true to the values of general practice, as the NHS realises its vision of Integrated Care Systems nationally. In so doing, we are confident that we will protect and enhance this cornerstone of care provision in London.”*

The ‘Next Steps to the Strategic Commissioning Framework for London’ outlines two main types of collaborative arrangements between practices. These are;

* Larger scale general practice models (LGPOs) where multiple practices work via formal collaborative arrangements enabling them to develop and train a broad workforce, create shared operational systems and quality improvement approaches.
* Primary Care Networks (PCNs) where practices come together with community providers and the voluntary sector to serve smaller populations. The vision is for the creation of multi-disciplinary, team based care for those with enduring, complex health and care needs.

The new publication cites local examples and evidence that large-scale general practice is delivering significant positive results across London. Benefits include:

* A developed workforce – new training, support systems and roles for current team members, and new specialists, like clinical pharmacists, joining the workforce.
* System partnerships – built by an empowered workforce that speaks with a collective voice, and that integrates its work within the rest of the system.
* Economies of scale – efficient creation of policies and procedures, combined purchasing power, and more.
* Better quality improvement – thanks to collaboration among the members of a Primary Care Network or other team.
* Greater resilience – by sharing back-office functions, pooling team members and developing business intelligence systems
* More consistent and accessible care for patients, delivered by a multi-disciplinary team with the combined skills to meets their specific needs ensuring the right care at the right time.
* Great care for life, from a joined-up, sustainable, high-quality, local network. This is thanks to new models of care and Integrated Care Systems with deep links to communities and a perspective that takes into account the whole population.

The framework recognises that practices across London are at different stages of collaboration and guidance is being shared on how to start, build upon or enhance collaboration locally. Providers and commissioners will be able to identify their levels of maturity and guidance to assist them

Guidance, templates and resources for GPs, practice staff and stakeholders are available on the [Healthy London Partnership Transforming Primary Care website](https://www.healthylondon.org/our-work/primary-care/).

**ENDS**

**Notes to editors**

* Healthy London Partnership formed in April 2015. It has been working across health and social care, and with the Greater London Authority, Public Health England, NHS England, London’s councils, clinical commissioning groups, and Health Education England. We have united to amplify the efforts of a growing community of people and organisations that believe it is possible to achieve a healthier, more livable global city by 2020.
* Londonwide LMCs is the only independent body with a statutory role representing over 7000 full and part-time GPs and almost 1250 practice teams across 27 London boroughs. Further details about Londonwide LMCs can be found on our website www.lmc.org.uk ; via Twitter @londonwidelmcs; or on our campaigning website www.gpsoe.org.uk. For further information please contact Alex Orton, Media Manager, Londonwide Local Medical Committees: 020 3818 6239 / alex.orton@lmc.org.uk.