REBUILD GENERAL PRACTICE

# PCN (PRIMARY CARE NETWORK) STAFF APPOINTMENTS

You may be offered an appointment with another clinician besides a GP. Please be mindful that this will have been initiated by a GP at the surgery after careful consideration during the triage process.

Having access to these specialized clinicians provides greater access to patients for relevant conditions and allows GPs to be more involved with chronic diseases and complex care.

One of the biggest changes within General Practice in the last few years has been the governments long-term plans to move funding to Primary Care Networks. Primary Care Networks (PCN’s) are groups of practices working together to focus local patient care. NHS Funding is directed into PCN’s and not directly to the surgeries, as a result practices have less money available to employ as many staff directly in surgeries. Some services are now contracted to be supplied by other staff within the PCN’s. It is important that patients are aware of some of these roles and engage with their support when offered by the practice.

These roles include:

CLINICAL PHARMACISTS – work as part of the General Practice team to improve value and outcomes from medicines and consult with and treat patients directly. This includes providing extra help to manage long-term conditions, advice for those on multiple medicines and better access to health checks.

SOCIAL PRESCRIBERS – connect people with local community activities and services that can help improve their health and wellbeing. There is a growing body of evidence that social prescribing can lead to a range of positive health and wellbeing outcomes.

FIRST CONTACT PHYSIOTHERAPISTS – the vast majority of musculoskeletal first contact practitioners are physiotherapists with enhanced skills. They can help patients with musculoskeletal issues such as back, neck and joint pain by assessing and diagnosing issues and providing appropriate advice and treatment.