Future-proofing General Practice – 22\textsuperscript{nd} November 2019

[Covering innovation, leadership, skill mix & workforce planning, telehealth]

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Innovation

**South Coast Medical Group Primary Care Network: Supporting the demand on primary care**

*NHS England* 10 October 2019

A case study showing how six practices in the East Dorset area are working together as a primary care network to broaden their workforce to provide a more efficient service to their patient population and to reduce waiting times for diagnostic testing.

**Social prescribing: new national academy set up**

*DHSC* 23 October 2019

Health and Social Care Secretary Matt Hancock is setting out his ambition for every patient in the country to have access to social prescribing schemes on the NHS as readily as they do medical care. In some parts of the country, patients with long-term conditions who have had access to social prescribing link workers have said they are less isolated, attended 47\% fewer hospital appointments and made 38\% fewer visits to A&E.

**Steps to benefit from social prescription: a qualitative interview study**

*Kirsty Payne, Elizabeth Walton and Christopher Burton* *British Journal of General Practice* 18 November 2019

Social prescribing appears to benefit individuals by a process that begins with personalised professional help to address social problems and moves through engagement with activities and others, to the recognition of personal and social assets and opportunities.

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Leadership

**Integrated care systems and nurse leadership**

*Monica Duncan* *British Journal of Community Nursing* Vol. 24, No. 11

This article discusses two examples of models of care that are patient-centred and link to neighbourhood, place and system levels, the Buurtzorg and Embrace model, both from the Netherlands. The article outlines Alban-Metcalfe's engaging transformational leadership model as a potential platform to move to flatter, more diverse teams and collective leadership.

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Skill Mix & Workforce Planning

**The real costs of teaching medical students in general practice: a cost-collection survey of teaching practices across England**

The costs of undergraduate placements in general practice are considerably greater than funding available and broadly comparable with secondary care funding in the same period. The actual cost of placing a medical student full time in general practice for a 37-week academic year is 40,700 GBP (53,640 USD) compared with the average payment rate of only 22,000 GBP (28,990 USD) per year.

Current understanding and implementation of 'care navigation' across England: a cross-sectional study of NHS clinical commissioning groups.
Tierney, Stephanie; Wong, Geoff; Mahtani, Kamal R British Journal of General Practice; Oct 2019; vol. 69 (no. 687)
There is a policy steer to engaging patients in social prescribing, using some form of care navigator to help with this. Results from this study show that implementation is heterogeneous. This could make comparison and pooling of data on care navigation difficult. It may also leave patients unsure about what care navigation is about and how it could help them.

Development and delivery of a clinical leadership programme for integrated community teams.
In order to implement a programme to develop staff and address skills gaps, objectives need to be identified and agreed, including protected time for staff to attend. When managers engage with frontline staff on a regular basis, this builds relationships and supports innovation and changes to meet service needs. Staff will be more supportive of changes when they feel valued and listened to. Communication and shared values and visions are essential to support change management.

Delivering general practice with too few GPs.
With an increasing number of GPs leaving clinical practice or working part time, and many practices unable to fill vacant GP posts, this briefing presents some ideas on how general practice can continue to be provided as the shortage of GPs becomes chronic.

How a Health Center Eliminated the Waiting List for Psychiatric Services.
Kinnan, Shannon. Et al Psychiatric services (Washington, D.C.); Oct 2019
Over a 3-year period, the collaborative care model (CoCM) and other integrated consultative strategies were implemented. As a result, the waitlist was reduced from 350 patients to 1 patient. The use of the CoCM and other integrated care strategies was successful in eliminating a psychiatric service waitlist in this primary care setting.

"Every structure we're taught goes out the window": General practitioners' experiences of providing help for patients with emotional concerns'.
Parker, Daisy. Health & social care in the community; Oct 2019
Establishing rapport is an important step before the GP and patient negotiate openly and develop a shared understanding of the problem. This takes time and emotional resources. Longer consultations, continuity of care and formal supervision for GPs could enable them to better support patients.

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‘I know they are not trained in dementia’: Addressing the need for specialist dementia training for home care workers

Polacsek, Meg et al.  Health & Social Care in the Community; Oct 2019

The findings of this study will be used to inform the essential elements of a training program aimed at enabling and empowering a skilled, specialist home care workforce to support older people with dementia to live well at home for as long as possible.

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When primary care networks receive new funding for expanded multidisciplinary teams next April, physiotherapists will be one of the new roles they may want to bring into the team.

PCC 11 November 2019

Jamie Bell, clinical and commercial director of Total Physiotherapy, believes that physios should be high on the list of priorities for PCNs, as they can have a potentially huge impact on GP workload.

Case study: Tackling mental health in general practice

Karen Barry  PCC 11 November 2019

Often there is little a GP can do beyond medication to support people with mental health needs. Harley St Medical Practice in Stoke-on-Trent had a long-term ambition to address this gap in service and, when a GP left the practice, they took a leap of faith and appointed a mental health practitioner, Deborah Glendinning, to work full-time in the surgery.

Telehealth

Digital and online symptom checkers and assessment services for urgent care to inform a new digital platform: a systematic review.

Health Serv Deliv Res 2019;7(29)

Major uncertainties surround the likely impact of 'digital 111' services on most of the important outcomes, but precedent suggests that once introduced their use may increase rapidly.

Virtual reality used to help manage pain at London hospice

Owen Hughes. Digital Health 22.10.19

Meadow House, a 15-bed inpatient unit and day hospice located at Ealing Hospital in London, has been trialling the use of VR headsets for the past month.

National roll-out of electronic prescription service

DHSC 19 October 2019

In future all prescriptions will be issued electronically, with the national rollout of the existing service
starting next month. The electronic prescription service (EPS) has been tested with 60 GP practices and hundreds of pharmacies and already accounts for almost 70% of all prescriptions.

**Hundreds of practice nurses across the country have been taught how social media can improve health thanks to the success of one of NHS Digital’s Widening Digital Participation projects.**

**NHS digital**

**29 October 2019**

Following a pilot using Facebook to promote breast screening, one area saw a 12.9% increase in the take-up of screening services and moved from 58th in the country for uptake to 11th. The same techniques are now being used to encourage patients to go for other cancer screening tests. Around 350 general practice nurses and other practice staff have so far been trained as “digital health champions”, including learning how social media can help promote practice services.

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