




Benfleet PCN

Primary Care Network

September 2024 Newsletter

Benfleet  Primary Care Network is a collaboration of seven GP practices serving approximately 48,000 patients, from the Benfleet, Hadleigh and Thundersley areas in Essex.

Our PCN also includes:

Pharmacies, Community health services, Mental health services, Adult social care, Voluntary organisations, and our surgeries Patient Participation Group's

BENFLEET PCN-PPG MISSION STATEMENT:

- 1. Make patients aware of individual surgery patient groups and the role of the Primary Care Network (PCN).*
- 2. Monitor and help PCN Benfleet achieve its goals.*
- 3. Aid each Benfleet PPG with shared best practises.*
- 4. Understand where the shortfalls are for patient needs across Benfleet.*

Mid and South Essex Pathology services – Single provider to offer unified solution

Patients across mid and south Essex are set to benefit from a single provider of pathology services, following an intensive and competitive procurement process.

SYNLAB, one of the UK's leading laboratory diagnostics providers, has been chosen as the preferred supplier for the delivery of a single, outsourced pathology service dedicated to mid and south Essex. Used by all General Practitioners (GPs) in the region as well as clinicians at Southend, Basildon and Broomfield hospitals, this service will include blood, tissue and other sample testing as well as the operation of phlebotomy clinics.

SYNLAB has committed to ensuring that the delivery of these services remains within the local area and to investing heavily in facilities, technology and state-of-the-art laboratory equipment to meet the future needs of the 15-year contract term. This investment is focused on enhancing service delivery and capabilities that benefit NHS patients, clinicians and all current and future colleagues.

The existing arrangements of Pathology First operating in Basildon and Southend, and the Trust running an in-house service in mid Essex will remain in place until at the latest, October 2026. For now, staff, other healthcare professionals and patients will see no change.

Survey

Palliative and End of Life Care in the East of England



**Share your
experience and
shape end of life care**

[MSE Primary Care Hub](#)

NHS East of England and Marie Curie are conducting a study to understand the experiences of people in the East of England accessing palliative and end of life care.

The aim of the survey is to help those responsible for providing that care to ensure it is of the highest standard possible. As well as completing the survey, there is also an opportunity to take part in one-to-one interviews or group discussions.

Why this survey?

Everyone deserves the best experience possible at the end of life - with access to high quality care and support when and where they need it most.

That's why we're inviting people living in the East of England who have been affected by terminal illness to share their experiences. This includes people that are:

- **Currently living with a terminal illness**
- **Supporting and/or caring for someone** living with a terminal illness – whether family, friends, volunteers or health or social care professionals
- **Bereaved family or friends** of someone who has died from a terminal illness in the last 2 years.

All responses are welcome, but we are particularly keen to reach more male patients (rather than carers or those who have been bereaved) and those from non-white backgrounds.

To find out more about the survey, please visit the [Marie Curie website](#) or read the [Survey Participant Information Sheet](#).

The survey closes on Monday 30 September 2024.

Why participate?

Input to this survey will help to highlight what is working well with regards to care as well as priority areas for improvement. As such it will enable us to inform and provide recommendations to those who are responsible for shaping and making decisions about palliative and end of life care for people in the East of England. Ultimately, this will be helping to ensure that more people get the best possible care and support at the end of life, reflecting what's most important to them.

If you need support

If people need help completing the survey, prefer a paper version, or would like guidance over the telephone – including in different languages, they can email: - EastofEnglandInfo@mariecurie.org.uk or call the East of England Hub on 0121 752 9305.

PCN Updates

- **Vaccines**
 - **RSV** - New NHS vaccination programmes against respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) - <https://www.nhs.uk/vaccinations/rsv-vaccine/> (Campaign live from 1st Sept 2024). Available to all adults aged 75 and all women who are 28 weeks pregnant on or after 2nd Sept 2024. PCN will undertake these vaccinations for all care home and housebound patients. There is a catch-up cohort for 75–79-year-olds as well as those that turn 80 in the first year (until 2nd Sep 2025). The PCN will be vaccinating this cohort in the month of September 2024 and then continue to deliver the vaccine much like pneumonia as and when patients become eligible. Surgeries will vaccinate in house for all other cohorts.
 - **Flu** - The Flu vaccination can be given at the same time but advised to try and avoid this as the vaccine may then not be as effective, so recommended to have both vaccinations separately. The Flu campaign will begin in October 2024 with the PCN vaccinating all care home and housebound patients (this will go on all the way through to December) and the practices are running clinics in-house for all other cohorts.
 - **Covid** - Patients will need to attend a local pharmacy for the Covid-19 vaccine if eligible. Currently awaiting who will be providing these for our at-risk patients.
- **Blood Pressure/ECG** – Rushbottom Lane Surgery are now offering 24-hour Blood Pressure and ECG checks for all patients in Benfleet. Your surgery will refer you directly if it is flagged you are in need of one of these checks.
- **Death Certificates** – an amendment has been brought in by the government from the 9th Sept 2024. GP's now have to complete a notification of death form which includes their understanding of the cause of death, when the patient died etc. This is then sent to a Medical Examiner who will need to issue confirmation that they accept the cause of death the GP has proposed. This then gets sent back to the practice for the GP to issue the death certificate and sent to the local registrar. This adds a slight delay to the current process but does mean a GP only has to have seen a patient in life not within the last 28 days of life as per the current procedure. The PCN has undertaken communications for the care homes so they are aware and GP practices are obliged to advise all other appropriate patients of these changes. Please see the government website for more detail: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/changes-to-the-death-certification-process/an-overview-of-the-death-certification-reforms>
- **PCN Women's Health Hub** – the previous clinics for family planning are being re-introduced in this new format. Eligible patients across Benfleet will be contacted by the PCN or can contact the PCN to be added to the waiting list (benfleetpcn@nhs.net). Clinics will be available from October 2024 and include:
 - Non-Contraceptive coils and pessary rings (previously fitted/removed in hospital).
 - Contraceptive coils and implants.
 - You will receive a call before the appointment to discuss your choice of procedure and any questions you may have. These clinics include fittings and removals.
 - The PCN will be contacting all women by SMS aged 18-55 to offer this service within the next month or so.
 - These clinics will be run on a Saturday 9-3pm at Rushbottom Lane Surgery by a trained nurse.



Alzheimer's new trial drug - NHS respond to Lecanemab coverage

Following extensive media coverage on 22 August regarding the MHRA and NICE decisions on Lecanemab, we want to provide you with NHS England's official response. Professor Sir Stephen Powis, NHS National Medical Director, stated:

"The NHS now awaits a final decision from the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence that will look at the clinical benefits and cost-effectiveness of Lecanemab and determine if it should be routinely offered by the NHS in England".

"Lecanemab is the first disease modifying treatment for Alzheimer's disease with a market approval in the UK, and to ensure the health system is prepared for future advances in treatments, a dedicated NHS team is also looking ahead to 27 other drugs which are currently in advanced clinical trials that could be potentially approved by 2030".

[MSE Primary Care Hub](#)

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Community Pharmacy

The Community Pharmacy WhatsApp group (reported on in last month's newsletter) appears to be working really well. This can be counted as a success story.

NHS Mobile App

Members of the PCN-PPG have agreed to try out the NHS App. PPG members have now downloaded or were already using the app. It was noted that there have been regular changes implemented to the App, but currently, still not enough patient information is on there.

Members will continue to monitor the app to track improvements and advise accordingly.

**Do more
with the
NHS App!**



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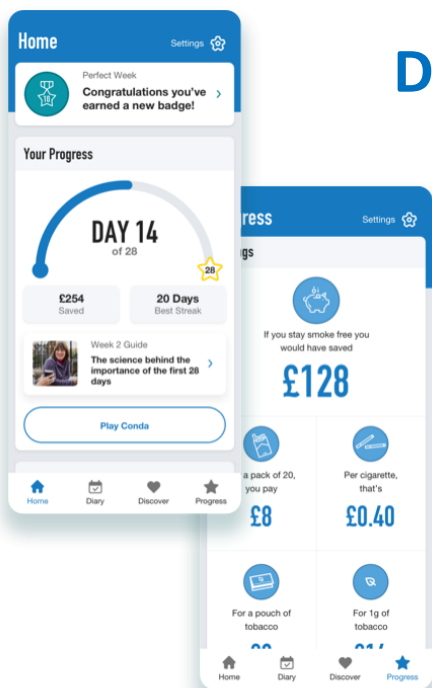
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If you can make it to 28 days smoke-free, you're 5 times more likely to quit for good!

Your surgery needs YOU!

Join your surgery's **Patient Participation Group**

With both staff and patients pulling together, we can create a health care that works for us all

You too can be a part of this

Just email your name and surgery name to: - BenfleetPCN@nhs.net

TOGETHER

