

PPG meeting at Alexandra Road – Tuesday 19th November 2019

Attended by:

Dr Sonalingham, Sheila Leach,
Tony Groves and Sandra Clapham from Wimbledon Medical Practice.

Dr Sonalingham spoke about local **PCN's (Primary Care Networks)** to members of PPG group from Alexandra Surgery & Wimbledon Medical Practice.

Primary Care Networks (PCN) were formed with local surgeries working together. Every surgery in England has been advised to join a PCN. This is part of the NHS 5 year Plan. GP surgeries have been encouraged to form into a network. The suggested average size is 30000 patients. We have joined with another 3 surgeries in Merton. We will be known as The North West Merton PCN.

Our group is Wimbledon Village, Vineyard Hill Road, Alexandra Road and Wimbledon Medical, we are called Northwest Merton PCN, we have 32,000 patients between four practices.

At the moment GP's and managers are meeting monthly, the advantage of this is sharing ideas, resources and manpower.

The intention is to share resources and provide further services to patients by sharing the resources and costs.

It is to combine teams with other health professionals. These increased services will come from the employment of social prescribers, and pharmacists which will be funded by the government.

A PCN pharmacist will take away some of the workload from the GP's with medication reviews etc.

Social prescribers will be beneficial to the patients with social needs that require extra assistance (language barrier) and are not always privy to information available regarding the local area.

It is to combine teams with other health professionals.

Free up GP time to see other patients.

Provide care local.

The plan is to improve patient care.

Respond to patient's wellbeing by talking to them and finding out what their needs are.

GP's will share ideas.

Reduce waiting times.

Share out of hours (at the moment a local hub to see patients at Wimbledon Medical Practice)

The group were asked if they have any ideas that could be taken to the local group meetings.

In some areas paramedics do home visits.

Help patients that have social needs.

The service needs to be advertised. (GP's will help to identify patients at the start)

The group felt it was difficult to come up with more ideas until we know exactly what the social prescriber and pharmacist can do.

<http://reader.health.org.uk/understanding-primary-care-networks>"