Setting the scene: primary care networks

Beccy Baird
Senior Fellow in Health Policy
A crisis in general practice

GPs quit NHS in England at rate of 400 a month
Rising workload and falling income blamed for early retirements and reluctance to join family practice

NHS to spend £100m bringing in up to 3,000 GPs from abroad

Satisfaction with GP services at record low

General practice lost more than 700 GP partners in 2017

Soaring complaints against GPs as it becomes harder to get appointment
What’s going on?
The policy response

Also
• General practice premises policy review
• GP IT futures framework
• Digital first primary care consultation
• NHS People Plan
What are primary care networks?

About 1300 in total

Mostly between 30k and 50k patients

Mostly geographically coherent

Network clinical director

Network agreement with single bank account

New money
Additional roles
Participation payment
Core PCN funding
CD funding
‘Shared savings scheme’
Where do they fit (3 letter systems...)

- Sustainability and transformation partnership (STP)
- Integrated care system (ICS)
- Primary care network (PCN)
- GP practice
What will PCNs do? 7 new service specifications

- Structured medication reviews
- Enhanced care in care homes
- Anticipatory care
- Personalised care
- Early cancer diagnosis
- CVD prevention and diagnosis
- Tackling inequalities
PCNs will deliver these by:

- **improving core general practice**
  - investment in additional roles
  - network quality improvement

- **being the home of integrated community multidisciplinary teams**
  - aligning community and mental health teams with PCNs
  - creating multidisciplinary teams for people with complex needs

- **improving the health of the local population**
  - taking a proactive approach to managing population health
  - identifying people who would benefit from targeted support
Lots to think about
Some issues to consider

Will they be able to easily access OD support?
Will service specifications allow networks to address local need?
Let’s not forget access
How will their success be measured? How should it be?
Implementing team working isn’t easy
There’s an estates issue
How should PCNs engage with their local community?
How will they safely share information?
What do I hope general practice will look like in future?

- Working at scale in a network
- Empowering patients to manage their own health
- A shift from reactive to proactive care
- Working in a team within the practice
- An emphasis on continuity
- Working more closely with the wider system
- Using new technologies
- Improved engagement with community resources
- A focus on the health of the wider community