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

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 an appointment
What’s going on?
The policy response

- NHS Long Term Plan
- GP Contract
- Partnership review
- GP IT Futures Framework
- GP Estates Review
Three 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
So what might general practice look like in future?

Empowering patients to manage their own health

A shift from reactive to proactive care

An emphasis on continuity

Working in a team within the practice

Working at scale in a network

Working more closely with the wider system

Using new technologies

Improved engagement with community resources

A focus on the health of the wider community