Together we are *stronger*

PGPA Stakeholder Newsletter

June 2025

Pennine GP Alliance

A New Chapter Begins: PGPA Takes the Lead on Protected Learning Time in Calderdale

From July 2025, Pennine GP Alliance (PGPA) is excited to take the lead in delivering Protected Learning Time (PLT) events for primary care staff across Calderdale. We warmly thank Calderdale LMC for their invaluable leadership over the past three years in refreshing the PLT programme and improving development opportunities in general practice.



The partnership between PGPA and Calderdale LMC in 2024 brought great results, with higher attendance and stronger engagement, especially through including Primary Care Network (PCN) staff. This collaboration has fostered a powerful culture of shared learning and teamwork across clinical and non-clinical teams.

As PGPA takes sole responsibility, clinical and non-clinical staff can expect to see a fresh new look and feel for PLT events - while continuing to focus on high-quality learning and development that meets evolving professional needs.

On 02 July, two simultaneous sessions will take place. Non-clinical staff will attend face-to-face conflict resolution training at a new venue for PLT events. Meanwhile, clinical staff will participate in a virtual session focused on meeting the clinical learning needs of our healthcare teams. A separate face-to-face event for clinical staff will be held later in the year.

We look forward to welcoming our guests to our first events and thank everyone involved for shaping PLT into a vital part of Calderdale's primary care development.

Stronger Together

General Practice and Neighbourhood NHS event

We were delighted to welcome over 60 general practice colleagues from across Calderdale to our joint event with the LMC at Bertie's, Elland. With a rapidly changing NHS landscape, it was energising to bring practices together for important conversations on how we elevate the voice of General Practice and ensure we play our full part in the emerging Neighbourhood Plans for Calderdale.



The evening featured reflections on the successes of PGPA and LMC collaboration alongside discussion of the proposed **General Practice Provider Collaborative (GPPC)**. With open and honest dialogue around future direction, structure, and purpose.



We're proud to share that, in partnership with the LMC, we received strong endorsement from practices to carry forward the development of the GPPC. The evening closed with attendees digitally adding their names to a visual 'seal of approval', representing a united, confident, and forward-thinking Calderdale General Practice.

This is just the beginning, we look forward to building on the ideas, enthusiasm and commitment shown on the night as we shape a strong, collaborative future for General Practice in Calderdale.

PGPA Green Impact Award Update



Following our last update in April, we're thrilled to share our ongoing progress towards a more sustainable future for PGPA.

Ella Fairbrother, one of PGPA's Project Managers is driving our Green Impact actions, and we're well on our way to achieving Bronze status. Our target is 75 points by the September 31st submission deadline, and we've already banked 35 points, hitting 46% of our goal. We're actively working on several new initiatives to get us there!

PGPA Visited NHS Confed in Manchester

The event provided practical insights and reinforced PGPA's direction of travel in delivering high-quality, joined-up primary care.

Stronger Together

Walking Works Campaign



As part of our commitment to staff wellbeing and healthier workplaces, Pennine GP Alliance has been taking part in the Walking Works campaign throughout June, in partnership with Living Streets and funded by the West Yorkshire Combined Authority.



The campaign encourages staff to build more movement into their working day through walking and wheeling. Each week we've shared a new challenge with staff, ranging from walking meetings to lunchtime strolls, active commuting, and brisk 30-minute walks, alongside tips, encouragement, and photo updates to keep engagement high.



We've had a brilliant response, with staff getting involved and sharing how they've been incorporating walking into their routines. There's been a real sense of fun, connection, and a collective focus on wellbeing.

In addition to the staff campaign, Hannah has attended an event at Ash Green Community School to celebrate their fantastic achievements in promoting active travel among pupils and families. It was a great opportunity to see how the message of movement is spreading through the wider community.



We're now looking at how we can keep the momentum going and continue supporting active, healthy habits across our teams and beyond!

Our Commitment to EDI

Our PGPA EDI Champions continue to meet monthly and are currently discussing events and campaigns to make noise about throughout the rest of the year. One of these is 'White Ribbon Day' in November 2025.

PGPA is a White Ribbon Supporter Organisation which means we're committed to seven actions, including raising awareness about ending violence against women in their communities, inspiring people to be changemakers, signposting people to find help and holding a fundraiser for White Ribbon UK to do important work.

- About White Ribbon UK
- Why White Ribbon UK?

Check out the White Ribbon Promise and make your commitment today.

PCN Impact



Calder and Ryburn PCN - Anna Duggan

Implementing Cancer Care Reviews

Although no longer part of QOF, Calder & Ryburn PCN have chosen to continue delivering full Cancer Care Reviews.

Matt, a Care Coordinator at Brig Royd Surgery explains: Over the past couple of months, we've started carrying out these reviews ourselves. Previously led by GPs, they are now being completed by Care Coordinators, allowing more time to be dedicated to each patient and enabling a more personalised approach.

These reviews take place at 3 months and 12 months following a cancer diagnosis. Patient feedback has shown they are a valuable way to ease some of the emotional and practical challenges of living with cancer. They offer patients the opportunity to talk about any concerns - whether physical, mental, social or practical - no matter how big or small.

Initially, the idea of implementing these reviews felt like a daunting task, but they've turned out to be one of the most rewarding parts of the Care Coordinator role. Spending up to an hour simply chatting with someone, or signposting them to local groups and activities they might enjoy, truly feels like making a positive difference to their wellbeing during a difficult time.

Social Prescrbing Case Study: Supporting Mrs S Through Loss and Loneliness

Mrs S was struggling with loneliness and grief following the loss of her husband. She had withdrawn from social activities and felt she had never received the mental health support she needed. Living alone and facing balance issues, she lacked the confidence to leave the house and no longer felt safe in her own home.

With support from Millie, our Social Prescribing Link Worker, Mrs S was referred to Calderdale NHS Talking Therapies and placed on the waiting list for face-to-face sessions. While she waited, she met with our PCN's Mental Health Practitioner for interim support. To help her reconnect socially and build confidence, she was signposted to a local seated exercise class and accompanied to her first session. Additional referrals were made for occupational therapy, physiotherapy, and a falls alarm to support her safety and independence at home.



She was also invited to a drop-in event for International Older Persons Day, where she connected with local services including the falls team and Age UK, who supported her Blue Badge reapplication. She now feels more confident, regularly attends the exercise class, and is engaging with ongoing mental health support. Mrs S told her GP that the input from Mille as a Social Prescribing Link Worker has been incredibly helpful during this difficult time.

PCN Impact



Central Halifax PCN - Sudheer Shabir

Frequent Attenders Pilot

Central PCN has launched a pilot project focused on reviewing frequent attenders within a practice. Using clear criteria to define frequent attendance, the pilot has identified patients with the highest usage of services.

Remarkably, the top 10 individuals on this list accounted for over 700 contacts with the surgery in the past 12 months - an average of more than one appointment every single week.

The pilot adopts a multidisciplinary team (MDT) approach, involving both clinical and non-clinical members of primary care, as well as colleagues from the hospital nursing team, district nursing, and social services.

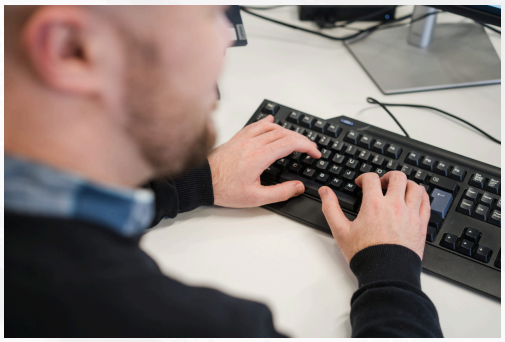
With the support of detailed data and thorough note reviews, the team has been able to explore potential underlying causes and identify trends. This has enabled the development of personalised care plans to better support and manage each patient's needs.

The meetings also prioritise ongoing monitoring, with each patient's progress and healthcare interactions being regularly tracked and reviewed. This helps assess the effectiveness of follow-up plans and guides future decision-making.

We look forward to sharing further updates and, in time, some early data insights from the pilot.

Digital Project Enhances Palliative Care and Tackles Health Inequalities

Central Halifax PCN, with support from the Pennine GP Alliance Digital Transformation Team and funding from West Yorkshire ICB, has delivered a successful data-led project that's improving palliative care and helping to reduce health inequalities across our practices.



Using predictive modelling developed by Grip Analytics, the initiative - Known as GSF Lite - identified 240 patients who may be nearing end of life, many of whom had not previously been flagged using traditional methods. Notably, a significant number were from more deprived and ethnically diverse communities, highlighting how digital tools can help us reach those who may otherwise be overlooked.

This work is helping us provide more timely, equitable support to patients at a critical stage in their care journey.

Read the full story on the PGPA website here.

PCN Impact

Lower Valley PCN - Anna Lunn

Shining a light on our brilliant Integrated Neighbourhood Team (INT) Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT)

In Lower Valley PCN we're making a real difference by bringing together health, social care, and voluntary sector partners to provide joined-up, patient-centred care. Evolving from the Ageing Well MDT launched in 2022, the group meets weekly for an hour to review patients - brought by partners with consent - and to offer both anticipatory and reactive personalised support.

The MDT's purpose is to improve communication and partnership working across services, put the patient first, and ensure equality in decision-making. The team's first meeting focused on setting a shared vision and establishing expectations, laying the foundation for respectful, collaborative working.

Recently, the team presented at the West Yorkshire ICB Workforce Summit, delivering a 30-minute workshop showcasing their work. The presentation was a huge success, receiving enthusiastic feedback which praised the clarity, compassion, and equality the team demonstrated, saying the session "perfectly showed the value of the voluntary and community sector and the value of relationships," adding it was a great example of how integrated care should work - without ego or hierarchy.

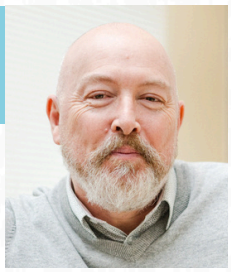






Following the event, Jackie, one of our Ageing Well practitioners, was invited to speak on NHS England's Transforming Primary Care podcast to share more about the team's impact. The group were then asked by Kirklees to present for their ICB. This recognition reflects the powerful work happening in Lower Valley and the difference true partnership can make.

PCN Impact



Upper Calder Valley PCN - Tony Martin

Integrated Neighbourhood Team (INT) Community Workshop

Building on the momentum of our successful Community Connections event at Todmorden Health Centre in October, we hosted a dynamic and inspiring INT Community Workshop at Mytholmroyd Community Centre in May.

Bringing together over 40 local partners from health, social care, and the voluntary and community sectors, the workshop created a space for genuine collaboration. Working in mixed groups, participants explored a shared vision for the future of integrated neighbourhood working in the Upper Calder Valley - looking not just at the year ahead, but imagining the possibilities 20 years from now.



The workshop celebrated the strong foundations already in place, with inspiring stories of effective multi-disciplinary working across the area. It also marked a turning point – helping us build even stronger partnerships, align our efforts, and move from collaboration to action. Together, we'll drive forward real change to deliver meaningful outcomes for our communities.

Ageing Well Drop-in Event – Todmorden Health Centre



We recently held a well-attended Ageing Well Drop-in Event at Todmorden Health Centre, building on last year's success. Organised by the UCV PCN Personalised Care Team, including the Ageing Well Nurse, Social Prescribers, and Care Coordinators, the event aimed to raise awareness of ageing and living well among patients aged 50+. Timed to coincide with Carers Week, the event focused on supporting carers and raising awareness around dementia. It brought together key local organisations including:

Dementia Hub / Age UK, Age Concern Todmorden, Todmorden Health Champions, Staying Well, Falls Prevention Team, Carers Count, Inspire, Motivate, Move, Calderdale Forum 50+

Attendees were able to speak directly with support services, ask questions, and pick up helpful resources. The event reinforced the importance of ageing well through four key messages: **eat well, move more, sleep better, and stay connected.** It also strengthened links between the PCN and the local community, helping patients understand what support is available to help maintain their health and independence.

"A really enjoyable morning... great to engage with people in Todmorden." – Calderdale Forum 50+

"It was lovely to see a buzz at the health centre and interest in the information stalls." – Inspire, Motivate, Move Forever

PGPA Services in Primary Care

PGPA offers a comprehensive range of services and projects designed to support Primary Care. You can find out more about them on our website: www.penninegpa.co.uk/our-services

Cancer Care

Cancer Pathways & Screening – Working Together for Better Outcomes



Eilidh Gunson, PGPA's Cancer Care Coordinator and Lucy Rogers, Transformation Lead for Cancer in Calderdale have been visiting practices to raise awareness of the FIT test and its role in timely cancer referrals. A recent discussion with Elaine at Rastrick Health Centre led to some fantastic ideas around improving cancer screening and supporting patients living with and beyond cancer - with some ideas already being implemented.

Cancer Screening - Gathering valuable patient insight via our NEW feedback form

We are keen to hear from those who have been invited for breast screening to find out about their experiences, explore any barriers and take on board their thoughts and ideas that will help shape the future of breastscreening in Calderdale - ultimately to help save more lives through the early detection. We've recieved over 250 responses to our feedback form in just a few days and as this work continues, we'd love more practices to get involved.



Watch this video by DR Sophie GP about breast screening, featuring the Pennine Breast Screening Unit in Calderdale

Also, West Yorkshire Cancer Alliance has released a helpful animation on the support available to patients across their cancer journey - watch it here.

Workplace Health Checks



We're proud to announce the successful completion of our NHS Workplace Health Checks programme, which ran from September 2024 to May 2025. Designed to improve the health and wellbeing of employees across Calderdale, the programme reached a diverse range of workplaces, offering convenient, on-site health checks at no cost to businesses or employees.

Working in partnership with 50 organisations, PGPA's Health Checks Coordinator completed a total of 1,268 workplace health checks. These checks provided a crucial opportunity for early detection of health risks and direct support for employees in taking charge of their wellbeing.

Thank you to the organisations that partnered with us. Click to read more.

PGPA Services in Primary Care

Digital Transformation

General Practice rate our services!

The results of our April 2025 Digital Transformation service feedback survey show an impressive average rating of 4.8 out of 5 stars for the support we provide to GP practices in Calderdale through Pennine GP Alliance. A fantastic achievement.

Click to read the latest Digital Transformation Project.

Praise for the team: "Matt is a digital superstar providing support to help streamline our processes - a huge asset to PGPA"

Severe Mental Illness work

Since starting as PGPA's SMI Health Checks Champion in May, Debbie Taylor-Payne has quickly connected with colleagues across the network to support patient engagement with annual health checks.



In her first week, she met Rachel Morgan, PGPA Care Coordinator who is leading the way in removing barriers to attendance. Rachel's approach includes offering double appointments, home visits, chaperones, and access to quiet waiting areas.

Debbie highlights the value of flexible care, noting that some patients feel more comfortable in outdoor or natural settings. She encourages teams to consider using such spaces where possible to support patient wellbeing and engagement.

Acute Respiratory Infection (ARI) Hubs

impressive results: From 30 September 2024 to 25 April 2025, hubs ran for 30 weeks, providing rapid care for patients with respiratory symptoms during peak winter pressures.



Of 17,531 appointments offered, 17,054 were used—a 97% utilisation rate. Importantly, 10,673 patients reported they would have otherwise gone to A&E, highlighting the hubs' vital role in reducing demand on urgent care.

PGPA is now reviewing outcomes to inform future planning and remains committed to improving access, quality, and efficiency across local primary care services.

Click here to read more.

Dr. Fawad Azam, PGPA Board Member and key clinician involved in the ARI hub initiative said:
"The ARI hubs have proven to be an essential resource throughout the winter period. They've enabled us to manage high volumes of respiratory illness safely and efficiently, while maintaining continuity of care for our wider patient population. The ability to access rapid testing and targeted treatment has not only benefited patients but also supported better clinical decision-making across our practices."

Latest Campaigns

Diabetes Awareness Week



Diabetes Awareness Week ran from 9 - 15 June and is a national campaign led by Diabetes UK to raise awareness and shine a light on what it's really like to live with diabetes everyday. During the week it was an oportunity to make some noise and talk about the things that matter to people living with Diabetes.

PGPA work locally to support GP practices and their patients in managing diabetes. Click here for more information.

Pride Month



This June marks the 55th anniversary of the first Pride march, held one year after the 1969 Stonewall Uprising - a pivotal moment in the LGBTQ+ rights movement. Pride Month is a time to honour the courage of those who fought for equality and to celebrate the joy, love, and diversity of the LGBTQ+ community. It reminds us that while progress has been made, the journey continues, and every step forward matters.

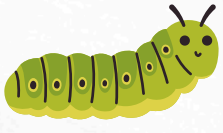
Calderdale Pride takes place on 16th August at Dean Clough. Find out more here.

Carers Week

Carers Week is a national campaign celebrating the vital role of unpaid carers and raising awareness of the challenges they face. It encourages people to recognise themselves as carers and access support.

This year's theme, Caring About Equality, highlighted the inequalities carers experience - such as increased risk of poverty, poor health, and social isolation. Carers of all ages often miss out on education, careers, and opportunities due to their responsibilities. Additionally, the campaign encourages people in employment who identify as a carer to speak with their organisation about the support avaliable.

National Growing for Wellbeing Week



National Growing for Wellbeing Week (June 2–8, 2025) celebrates the benefits of gardening and the outdoors. We're extending the fun - join us in building a Bug Hotel! Need inspiration? Check out this guide: Build a bug mansion



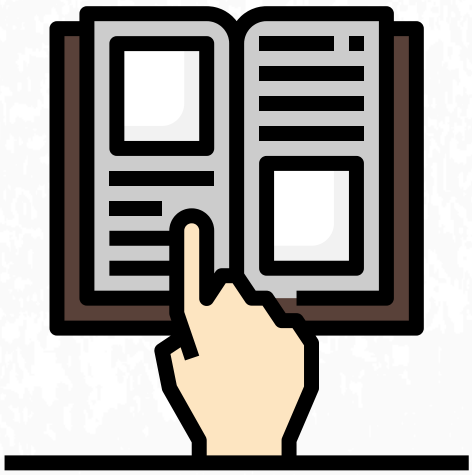


Calderdale Cares News

CALDERDALE CARES PARTNERSHIP

Community Directory - Calder Connect

A newly expanded Community Information Directory, developed by Calderdale Council and local partners, is now live - bringing together support, services, and opportunities for adults in one easy-to-use website.



The free, interactive directory helps people find local groups, activities, services (including GPs, pharmacies, and dentists), and community spaces. It covers topics such as health and wellbeing, finances, leisure, and getting out and about.
The site also encourages connection and wellbeing by promoting social and volunteer opportunities. Local organisations can register to add their own listings, helping the directory grow.

PGPA is proud to support Calder Connect—helping people across Calderdale stay healthy, connected, and informed. Visit: www.calderconnect.org

Health literacy

Health literacy is people's ability to find, understand, and use health information.

- It's key to improving outcomes and reducing pressure on services.
- It helps individuals make informed decisions, manage conditions, access the right care, and engage in healthier behaviours.

By supporting health literacy, we can reduce inequalities, boost confidence, and strengthen communities.

Please download the Calderdale Cares Health Literacy Poster for your working environment.

