Stakeholder *Newsletter*

Pennine GP Alliance

Together *we are stronger*



Edition
October
2025

Ensuring *viable GP services remain* at the heart of our *Neighbourhoods.*



A New Chapter for Pennine GP Alliance

This month marks an exciting milestone for Pennine GP Alliance as we launch our refreshed brand identity - a reflection of both who we are today and where we're headed.

Our new look celebrates the progress and ambition that continue to drive us as we unite general practice across Calderdale, amplify the voice of primary care, and deliver high-quality services to the neighbourhoods we serve.

While our logo remains familiar, you'll notice visual and stylistic updates across our communications and materials, including:

- A new organisational purpose statement: "Ensuring viable GP services remain at the heart of our Neighbourhoods"
- A refreshed visual style across digital and printed materials
- Updated templates for presentations and correspondence
- A more cohesive and professional appearance across our resources
- New organisational values and behaviours, co-produced with our team to reflect who we are and what we stand for

We've also enhanced our website - please visit www.penninegpa.co.uk to explore:

- About Us – our purpose, direction, values and behaviours
- Our Services – the support we provide across Calderdale
- News – the latest PGPA campaigns, events and case studies

Thank you for continuing to support us on this journey.

New PGPA Films on Cancer Screening & Mental Health Launched to Tackle Inequalities for People with SMI





We're pleased to announce the release of two co-produced films that aim to tackle critical barriers in cancer screening for people living with Serious Mental Illness (SMI). The films, which centre lived experience and peer support, are now publicly available and intended for wide sharing across health, care, and community networks.

People with SMI face stark physical health inequalities. They die, on average, 15 to 20 years earlier than the general population. Alarmingly, two in three of these deaths are potentially preventable, with cancer accounting for a substantial proportion.

By improving uptake of cancer screening and reducing delays in diagnosis, we have the potential to save lives, reduce suffering, and narrow one of the most persistent health inequality gaps in the UK. Read the article in full here.

PGPA, working with the Calderdale and Kirklees Recovery and Wellbeing College and funded by the West Yorkshire and Harrogate Cancer Alliance, has co-produced the below two short films, which we encourage you to share within your networks:

A Right to Live - designed primarily for health and care professionals, exploring how screening services can better support individuals with SMI, through inclusive practices and sensitivity to mental health needs. Please share this link: https://bit.ly/RightToLiveFilm

Bits, Boobs and Poo - aimed at the wider public (especially people living with SMI and mental health challenges), with personal stories, normalising screening and addressing fear, stigma and practical barriers. Please share this link: https://bit.ly/BitsBoobsandPooFilm

PGPA Host Protected Learning Time Events for General Practice in Calderdale



On Tuesday 07 October PGPA hosted two simultaneous events for health professionals working in Calderdale General Practice.

Over 160 non-clinical professionals met online for an afternoon of learning, with sessions on EDI, Pride in Practice, Physical Activity and Dementia Awareness.

Whilst over 100 clinicians gathered at Dean Clough in Halifax for consultant led sessions on Same Day Emergency Care (SDEC), a Renal update, Covid update and Pathology Autoreview update.

Feedback across both events was positive and also constructive to help shape future sessions and ensure they are as relevant and impactful as possible.

The next PLT sessions for clinical and non-clinical staff will be hosted online on Wednesday 03 December.

PGPA Strengthens Commitment to Preventing Sexual Harassment in the Workplace



PGPA is taking proactive steps to prevent sexual harassment across all sites. This month, the first of three manager training sessions took place, led by Chloe Wallace from OneSource HR.

The session covered legislation, psychological frameworks, harmful dynamics, incident management, and fostering psychological safety, including boundaries and definitions of sexual harassment. Facilitator-led discussions, case studies, and scenario exercises helped managers understand their role in prevention and response.

This comes after the introduction of a PGPA Sexual Harassment Policy and a mandatory online training module for all staff.

“Our aim is to embed a culture of respect and safety across PGPA,” said Vicky Chadwick, Head of HR.

Read the article in full here.

PGPA Pitch Up at Calderdale College Discovery Day

On Friday 17th October, members of our team attended the Calderdale College Discovery Day to engage with students about PGPA Careers.



Attending career fairs such as this one allows PGPA to increase students' knowledge of the wide variety of roles in primary care and raise awareness of diverse career pathways. It provides opportunities to engage with potential future staff, strengthen community partnerships, and promote health education.

Attendance also enhances PGPA's visibility, supports diversity and inclusion, and inspires students, helping to build a sustainable, skilled local primary care workforce for the future.

PGPA Striving for Green Impact Award

We can confirm that our Green Impact submission is complete, with our audit for the Bronze Award is scheduled for October 27th.



Matt Davies and Ella Fairbrother will attend to present our work, and we are confident the efforts of our Green Champions will be recognised. Our champions have also successfully completed their Carbon Literacy training, establishing both individual and group pledges aimed at reducing our collective carbon footprint.

Keep an eye out for a special feature in the December newsletter, which will provide more details on our Green Champions' impactful work and achievements!

Patients Praise Calderdale's Work to Tackle Antimicrobial Resistance



Work in Calderdale which is helping to transform antibiotic prescribing for respiratory infections has been recognised by the Primary Care Respiratory Society (PCRS).

A poster, summarising how a single-use rapid point of care test is being used in Calderdale's acute respiratory infection (ARI) hubs along with patient feedback, won the 'Most Patient Centred' poster category at the network's annual conference in September 2025.

The winning poster by NHS West Yorkshire Integrated Care Board in Calderdale, Health Innovation Yorkshire & Humber and Pennine GP Alliance describes how the finger pin-prick blood test determines if a patient has a viral or bacterial infection within 10 minutes, and the experience of care received by patients.

Read the article in full here.

PGPA Launches Innovative Healthcare Staff Wellbeing Challenge



At Pennine GP Alliance, we know that looking after the health of our workforce is vital to ensuring the best care for our patients. This September, we launched our inaugural wellbeing challenge, a new initiative designed to encourage our staff to get moving, feel better, and build healthier habits together.

The programme, delivered in partnership with Active Teams and funded by Active Calderdale, uses engaging team-based challenges and digital tracking technology to help staff build activity into their day.

The first staff to access the programme are healthcare professionals working within the Calder & Ryburn Primary Care Network, with plans to extend opportunities to other PCNs in Calderdale over the coming months.

Read the article in full here.

Patient *Feedback*

I would like to pass on my very grateful thanks to Joleene Sheriffe (Paramedic in Central PCN) for the care compassion and understanding she showed my # and me this morning and earlier this week when she came to visit her.

She treated # kindly and did everything she could to help us get the medical care she so desperately needs now.

In the past two weeks two ambulance crews have attended #. Neither team thought she had a medical problem and said it was a social issue. They checked her vitals but nothing else.

Joleene checked her abdomen and discovered a mass. Today Joleene, after discussing with the GP, felt the best way forward was to get # to A&E. She helped me get her in the car and followed me all the way to the hospital as her next call was Siddal because she could see how upset I was.

I thank her from the bottom of my heart for her help. She is fabulous at her job and should be treasured by your team.

Carer of patient '#'

The patient had been experiencing the sensation of something lodged in her throat and had previously visited the Accident & Emergency department, where her concerns were not adequately addressed.

In contrast, Aqeel Zafar a Pharmacist at Boulevard Medical Practice took her concerns seriously and did not brush off her description of her symptoms. He conducted a thorough examination of her throat and neck, ultimately reassuring her that there were not abnormalities detected, which alleviated her anxiety regarding her condition.

The patient expressed her gratitude for the pharmacist's attentive care and support, emphasizing the importance of the safe space he provided, which allowed her to feel validated and cared for during her visit.

Feedback from a patient

Upper Calder Valley

PCN Recognised for Excellence in Inclusion with Pride in Practice Gold Award



Upper Calder Valley PCN are very proud to announce that they and their member Practices have been awarded the Pride in Practice Gold Award from the LGBT Foundation.

Whether you're a patient visiting a GP, pharmacist or any other service, or a member of our team, the PCN believes that you deserve a place where you feel safe, accepted, seen, and supported by the healthcare professionals who provide your care or work alongside you.

The LGBT Foundation is based in Manchester and works to empower LGBTQ+ people to realise their full potential, every day. Pride in Practice works to improve the experiences of LGBTQ+ people accessing primary care services.

The PCN is one of the first, if not the first PCN in West Yorkshire to achieve this. It recognises our values and commitment to inclusion and to welcoming patients and colleagues who are sadly, very often, still subject to discrimination and exclusion from access to health services.

Thanks especially to Tracy Wilson- Practice Manager Todmorden Group Practice, Fareeha Ahmed- GP Hebden Bridge Group Practice, Kirsty McNamara- Social Prescribing Link Worker UCV PCN and Tori Cottam- Pharmacy Technician, UCV PCN who did much of the background work to achieve this award.

Upper Calder Valley Integrated Neighbourhood Leadership Group Meeting

The first meeting of the Upper Calder Valley Integrated Neighbourhood Leadership Group brought partners together to share ideas, reflect on progress, and plan for bigger and better impact. The session focused on working together in an integrated way to benefit local communities - moving from strategy to delivery.

Key Takeaways include: Harnessing the INT's collective strength to build on existing work; Quick wins and long-term goals to benefit local residents; Exciting mental health initiatives for immediate action; Data insights guiding future priorities.

Visit our website

The leadership group will meet regularly and continue to align priorities, identify quick wins, and support local services, ensuring the INT makes a real difference for people across the Upper Calder Valley.

Central Halifax

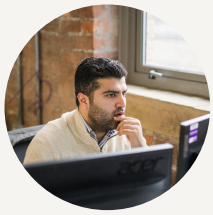
Preparing for Joint working as an INT



We're really pleased to have an Integrated Neighbourhood Team (INT) in Central Halifax again following Covid. Although we've had a few rebrands over the years, the ethos has remained the same - working together to maximise outcomes for our locality.

The INT has focused heavily on collectively addressing local challenges and using the strengths within the team to create tailored solutions for our community. We place strong emphasis on collaboration and relationship-building, which can be seen in the various small projects running across the locality. Many of these initiatives involve joint working that can be traced back to the INT's influence.





The INT's 2% Reduction Project

This project has given the INT a real, group-led focus, with plans to involve a wider range of local providers. This builds on a pilot we ran in one of our practices, where an Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) was set up to review patients who visited the practice most frequently. The top ten highest attending patients accounted for over 700 appointments in the past year - that's at least one appointment every week!

We adopted a holistic approach, involving Calderdale and Huddersfield NHS Foundation Trust's (CHFT) High Intensity Use Matron, Calderdale Council's social care team, the personalised care team (linking with third-party providers), the Community Matron, GPs, practice management, and a Mental Health Worker. This collaborative effort allowed patients to benefit from joint management plans and continuity of care.

This work highlights the real impact a coordinated, locality focused approach can have on patient care and service efficiency. By uniting teams and resources, we are improving outcomes for high-need patients while strengthening local health and social care partnerships. Looking ahead, the INT will build on these successes, pursue new joint projects, and keep collaboration at the heart of everything we do - creating a more integrated, responsive, and patient-centred service for our community.

Calder & Ryburn

Working Better Together – For Our Patients



Within Calder & Ryburn Primary Care Network, we know that the strongest teams deliver the best care. That's why we invest in corporate team building activities designed to strengthen collaboration, communication, and trust among our staff. Annually we run a whole PCN team building day, inclusive of our member practice staff as well as ARRS.

Why Team Building Matters in the NHS

Our work is centred around patients, and effective teamwork directly impacts the quality of care we provide. Team building helps us to; improve patient experience, enhance safety, support wellbeing and foster innovation.

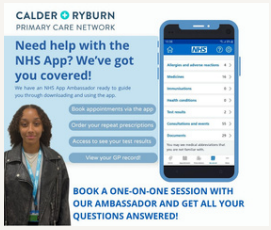
This year's Team Building Challenge took staff out and about on an adventure like no other! Teams worked together to navigate using GPS points, unlocking hidden tasks and challenges along the way. Each location revealed a new puzzle or activity designed to test creativity, teamwork, and problem-solving skills.

Read more on the Calder and Ryburn website here.



Supporting the Overgate Hospice Big Build

We're proud to support Overgate Hospice's Big Build campaign. Our Big Brew event brought staff, patients, and the community together for tea, cake, and company, raising £489.05! Every donation helps fund vital improvements to hospice facilities. Thank you to everyone who joined, your support truly makes a difference.



Introducing Our NHS App Ambassadors

Our Personalised Care Team are now trained as NHS App Ambassadors, helping patients make the most of the NHS App. Ambassadors will contact patients without online access (but with repeat prescriptions) to identify any barriers, then support them through phone calls and face-to-face sessions to get set up.

Lower Valley

Improving Dietician Referral Processes in Care Homes

The Lower Valley PCN Care Coordinator team identified delays in dietetic assessments due to incomplete information on the Support and Independence Team referral form. Led by Care Coordinator Wendy Ibberson, the team collaborated with CHFT Dietitian Lisa Green to redesign the form, ensuring it captured essential clinical and dietary details.



A pilot at Bridge House Care Home introduced weekly weight monitoring and direct referrals via Gateway to Care, later expanding across the PCN. The new process improved referral quality, sped up dietetic input, reduced PCN workload, and strengthened collaboration between care homes, the pharmacy team, and CHFT dietitians.

Read the case study in full here.

Supporting Independence and Wellbeing Through Social Prescribing

Social Prescribing Link Worker Jill Petrovic from the Lower Valley Primary Care Network supported a 75-year-old woman who had become increasingly isolated and low in mood. Living alone with severe COPD in a second-floor flat, she felt trapped by the 14 steps outside her home, which she described as feeling like “400 steps.”



After being on the Together Housing waiting list for more than two years and bidding daily for a ground-floor property without success, she reached out to Jill for help. With her consent, Jill wrote to Together Housing, explaining how her living situation was affecting her physical and mental wellbeing.

Just one month later, the woman was offered a bungalow in Shelf. Since moving, she says she feels as though “a weight has been lifted,” and she now enjoys stepping into her garden and going out independently. Read the case study in full here.



Calderdale Acute Respiratory Infection (ARI) Hubs Re-open for Winter 2025

PGPA have once again launched their Acute Respiratory Infection (ARI) Hubs across Calderdale's five Primary Care Networks.

As flu, COVID-19, and other respiratory illnesses rise during winter, the ARI Hubs provide timely assessments, advice, and treatment for people with symptoms such as a persistent cough, shortness of breath, and other signs of respiratory illness.

Last year during the 2024–25 winter season, the ARI hubs made 17,531 appointments available, with 17,054 used – a utilisation rate of over 97%. They also supported 10,673 A&E avoidances, meaning patients who used the ARI hubs reported they would otherwise have attended A&E.

A key feature of the ARI hubs is the use of rapid Point of Care Testing (POCT) – a simple finger pin-prick blood test that can determine whether an infection is viral or bacterial within 10 minutes.

The approach is helping clinicians make faster, safer decisions about treatment, reduce unnecessary antibiotic prescribing, and lower repeat GP visits and A&E attendances.

Calderdale's work embedding POCT in ARI hubs has also been recognised nationally, winning the 'Most Patient Centred' award at the Primary Care Respiratory Society annual conference for its focus on patient care and outcomes.

The ARI Hubs officially opened on Monday 29th September 2025. Patients contacting their GP practice with respiratory concerns may be referred to an ARI hub if their symptoms match the criteria.

The five ARI hubs are located at strategic points across Calderdale, providing assessments, diagnostic tests, oxygen monitoring, medication, and follow-up care.

Where required, patients are referred back to their GP for further treatment.
The ARI hubs are delivered by Pennine GP Alliance in partnership with the Calderdale and Huddersfield Urgent and Emergency Care Board, part of Calderdale Cares Partnership.

For further information please visit the PGPA website here.

Cancer Care



Our Cancer Care Coordinator regularly supports and collaborates with Calderdale Cancer Aware (Halifax Opportunities Trust). Recent activity includes the delivery of Cancer Screening and Awareness raising to an audience of 200 Council colleagues . We have also worked together on a "How to do your FIT" (faecal immunochemical test) video to support patients who may have bowel-related symptoms.

Ilyas, from the team, added an authentic Yorkshire voiceover and Sana Abdun Nasir, a student at HOT, translated the script into Urdu and provided a voiceover. It was a real team effort. View the videos on the PGPA YouTube Channel or click: Video English / Video Urdu.

Physical Activity



We've had a successful quarter integrating Physical Activity into General Practice. Key achievements include Calderdale achieving their first 'Active Practice' in Bankfield Surgery! Huge congratulations.

Calder & Ryburn continue to lead the way with the launch of Active Teams which gets workplaces moving with fun, active wellbeing challenges that build healthier, stronger, higher-performing teams.

The Upper Calder Valley practices are on their way to achieving Active Practice status too, and PCN Managers will have received an email from Ella Fairbrother about launching Active Teams in Upper, Lower, North and Central PCNs!

Ageing Well



To celebrate International Day of Older People a community event was held at Mixenden Activity Centre with our Ageing Well Practitioner.
The group was predominantly over the age of 65, with a near 50/50 split of men and women. The event ran for 2.5 hours and offered attendees the chance to connect with local services, enjoy entertainment, and participate in social activities.

Three referrals were made, with follow-up appointments planned. Feedback from the day was overwhelmingly positive and you can read more about it here.

Find out about the work in the Upper Calder Valley for 'Know Your Numbers Week' here.

Digital Transformation



Over the past few months, the Digital Transformation team has worked closely with partners from Public Health at Calderdale Council and Business Intelligence at the West Yorkshire Integrated Care Board — all part of the Calderdale Intelligence Network — to produce the second round of Integrated Neighbourhood Team (INT) profiles for Calderdale.

Building on last year's work, these updated profiles offer a richer picture of local health and wellbeing. PGPA played a key role by bringing together Primary Care data from EMIS and SystmOne, helping create a more detailed and meaningful view of each neighbourhood.

This year's profiles also draw on NHS England's Neighbourhood Health Guidelines and the Core20PLUS5 framework, ensuring the insights focus on areas where INTs can have the biggest impact — reducing health inequalities and improving outcomes for local people.

The refreshed profiles were shared in early October, showing the power of collaboration and data to drive positive change for health outcomes in Calderdale.

Healthy Working Life



We're excited to announce that the Healthy Working Life (HWL) Project is now "live" and available for general practice to book their patients in directly via the PGPA remote booking. The project aims to support people who are employed but currently have a fit note related to Mental Health and/or Musculoskeletal (MSK) issues.

Our PGPA HWL Advisors recently attended the PGPA Clinical Protected Learning Time (PLT) event, where they shared information with health professionals about how this initiative can help people remain in work through early intervention and tailored support.

The project fosters collaboration between health and employment services to support individuals throughout Calderdale. To find out further information click here or contact adele.morris2@nhs.net

Learn more about Health Working Life here.

Stop Smoking



Our Stop Smoking Practitioners are driving change! Ben Hill recently delivered a Very Brief Advice (VBA) training session at the NHS Health Checks event, partnering with Public Health. Ben focused on the simplicity of the Ask, Advise, Act approach, empowering staff to open vital conversations with patients. Furthermore, Arshad, another practitioner, successfully delivered his first VBA session at Rastrick Health Centre to positive feedback.

Want to empower your team? Book a 20-30 minute VBA training session now! Contact Ben (Central/North Halifax PCNs) or Arshad (Upper, Lower, Calder & Ryburn PCNs) to arrange staff training.

SMI



Debbie Taylor-Payne, SMI Healthchecks Champion and our Physical Activity Champion collaborated to improve the physical health of people with Serious Mental Illness by hosting the "Physical Activity and Serious Mental Illness" webinar. The well-attended event increased confidence among PGPA staff and community health professionals in having "Active Conversations."

A recording is available here. For further details contact Debbie: debbie.taylor-payne1@nhs.net

SMI/Learning Disabilities Diabetes Equalities Project

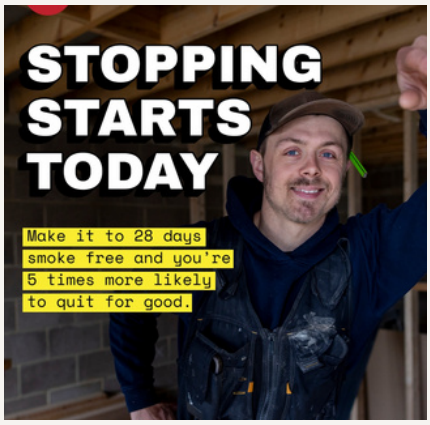


The project continues to progress, onboarding practices to support the delivery of the eight care processes. In Quarter 3, new actions are being developed and delivered to support both patients and healthcare professionals with lifestyle advice, focusing on "Movement" rather than "Physical Activity."

Patient reading materials are being produced using a "less is more" approach, alongside education sessions in collaboration with our SMI/LD community partners. For further information, contact angela.forsey@nhs.net.

Latest *Campaigns*

Latest *Stoptober*



Stoptober is back, and we're calling on Calderdale's smokers to join millions of others across the country who have quit successfully with the campaign.

At Pennine GP Alliance we have a dedicate stop smoking service that offers expert support to help individuals quit smoking and improve their health.

The service provides a personalised approach led by our Stop Smoking Practitioners Ben and Arshad.

Read more here.

Latest *MMR*



Measles cases are on the rise in England and across Europe. Make sure you and your family are protected against becoming seriously unwell with measles by checking you are up to date with the MMR vaccine.

Across England, on average one in ten children are not up to date with their MMR vaccinations, with some areas of the country as low as two in five, putting thousands of children at risk of catching measles and the disease spreading in unvaccinated communities.

Read more here.

Latest *Winter vaccinations*



Winter can be tough on our health. As the weather gets colder, viruses such as flu, COVID-19, and RSV (respiratory syncytial virus) spread more easily. These illnesses can be serious, especially for older adults, pregnant women, young children, and people with long-term health conditions.

This winter, Pennine GP Alliance is encouraging everyone in Calderdale to stay well, stay warm, and stay protected by getting your free NHS vaccinations and following simple steps to look after your health.

Read more here.

Would you like to contribute to the next *newsletter?*

Do you have any *comments* or *suggestions?*

Please contact

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Together *we are stronger*