

NHS

KENNET PCN

PRIMARY CARE NETWORK

BURDWOOD

FALKLAND

THATCHAM

## PPG Newsletter

### Welcome

Dear Patients, this PPG Newsletter is a bit different. It's a combined newsletter from your surgery and two other surgeries.

The reason is that surgeries in West Berkshire are teaming up into groups to share ideas and cooperate with each other to improve patient care. Each group is called a Primary Care Network (PCN). The Kennet PCN comprises Burdwood, Falkland and Thatcham surgeries.

The Patient Participation Groups (PPGs) at each surgery are also cooperating to make sure that your voice is heard as these changes are being made. You will find more information in this Newsletter and online from the link below. Also please do attend the next PPG meeting at your surgery to get a chance to discuss the changes in person. The dates of the next meetings are listed in the right hand column on this page.

## Primary Care Networks

PCNs are part of a nationwide NHS scheme aimed at bringing health and social care closer to people's homes and also tailoring the surgery's services to meet the needs of local people.

PCNs are clusters of neighbouring GP surgeries which have teamed up to start providing patients with a wider range of health and wellbeing services, specifically geared towards the needs of their local areas.

This means that, over time, you may have easier access to things like a Clinical Pharmacist, Physiotherapist, Community Mental Health team, Paramedic or Social Prescriber. This has already started, for example all three surgeries now have Clinical Pharmacists.

They will be on hand to help with a wide range of social, emotional, mental health and wellbeing issues and will work together with the GPs in our Network to give you a more joined up care service.

You can find out more at: [www.berkshirewestccg.nhs.uk/pcn](http://www.berkshirewestccg.nhs.uk/pcn)



### PPG Meetings:

Burdwood: 28 Sep

Falkland: 11 Nov

Thatcham: 1 Oct

## FAQ

### You may be wondering...

... your questions answered.



### Meet The Board

Who are the board members for the Kennet PCN?

## You may be wondering....

### Q1: What is a Primary Care Network?

Surgeries across the country are teaming up into small groups. Each group is called a Primary Care Network. In West Berkshire, The Kennet PCN comprises Burdwood, Thatcham and Falkland surgeries.

### Q2: Why do we need it?

PCNs are part of a nationwide scheme aimed at bringing health and social care closer to people's homes and tailoring the services to meet the needs of local people. Each PCN is based around natural local communities typically serving populations of between 30,000 and 50,000. They should be small enough to maintain the traditional strengths of general practice, but large enough to provide resilience and the development of integrated teams.

### Q3: Why group Burdwood, Falkland and Thatcham surgeries together?

There is a long history of all the local surgeries working well together. The three surgeries in Kennet PCN are like minded with a common approach and shared vision to provide great service for our patients.

### Q4: How will it affect me as a patient?

Your surgery, the Doctors and Nurses and the appointments available will not change. Behind the scenes the surgeries will be sharing ideas and looking at how services can be improved and expanded. Providing more flexible access to advice and support for 'healthier' sections of the population and better integrated care for those with complex conditions.

### Q5: What are the benefits to my surgery?

Joining a PCN brings new funding to the participating surgeries. This enables the expansion of qualified staff and training to provide the additional services. Working as a group also enables staff expertise to be developed and shared within the three surgeries. This will save duplication of effort and improve staff satisfaction and retention. Putting all these things together builds more sustainable and resilient surgeries.

### Q6: Will I still see my own GP?

Yes, you will continue to see your own GP in the same way as before.

### Q7: What is a Social Prescriber?

Social Prescriber is a new 'link worker' role established by the NHS. The Social Prescriber can be referred to by surgery and hospital staff, social care services, voluntary and community organisations and the patients themselves. The Social Prescriber can engage with a range of local, non-clinical services designed to support patients with social, emotional or practical needs. Our three surgeries will be sharing this role. The Social Prescriber will work closely with multi-agency teams, local authorities and voluntary services to support the health and wellbeing of patients.

### Q8: What new services will be available?

Clinical Pharmacists work within the surgery to provide help managing long-term and complex conditions, advice for those on multiple medicines and better access to health checks.

First contact Physiotherapists work within the surgery to provide advanced musculoskeletal assessment, triage and care. Patients who feel they need the help of a Physiotherapist can request an appointment directly, without seeing a GP.

### Q9: What type of appointments outside core hours will be available?

Out of hours appointments will continue as before. Check your surgery website for more information.

## The PCN Executive Board

Name	Surgery	PCN Role
Dr Angus Tallini	Falkland	Clinical Director
Kamal Bahia	Burdwood	Director
Mark Betkowski	Falkland	Director
Linda Lawson	Thatcham	Director



# Contact Us



In addition to contacting the Surgery directly, you can also get in touch with the PPG with your questions, suggestions, thanks for a job well done, or complaints.

Burdwood: [www.burdwoodsurgery.nhs.uk](http://www.burdwoodsurgery.nhs.uk)

email: [burdwoodsurgery@nhs.net](mailto:burdwoodsurgery@nhs.net)

Falkland: [www.falklandsurgery.co.uk](http://www.falklandsurgery.co.uk)

email: [falkland.ppg@nhs.net](mailto:falkland.ppg@nhs.net)

Thatcham: [thatchammedicalpractice.co.uk](http://thatchammedicalpractice.co.uk)

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