

Executive Summary

Primary care is the first point of contact in the healthcare system – a front door to the wider NHS. It is critical to our health and wellbeing and to sustaining wider health and care resilience by intervening early to protect health and prevent ill-health, as far as possible.

Our five year strategy for primary care sets out our long term vision and approach to primary care transformation in NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde (NHSGGC).

Our priorities and areas for action are set within a strategic framework that builds on the significant work already underway to improve our communities' health and wellbeing.

We know that the pandemic changed the conditions that we operate within. It rapidly accelerated how services are planned and delivered and opened up new ways for people to access them. As our population needs grow, primary care must evolve to be able to continue to respond. We need to do this in a way that makes best use of current resource and aligns well with wider system change.

This Strategy provides a high-level overview of our contribution, the context that we operate within, and the changes we want to make. It also defines our contribution to plans for wider system transformation across all-NHSGGC.

This Strategy is an opportunity for all of primary care to take a whole system approach to transformation, through new ways of working and by scaling up good practice.

Our ambition is that, by 2029, we will enable:

In the short term:

1. A sustainable workforce that is sufficiently staffed and skilled, and shares a common purpose;
2. A step-change in data and digital technology innovations to improve patient health and care outcomes;
3. Integrated care and well-connected services, supported by effective teams, improved system-wide working, leadership and planning; and
4. Patients to have an improved understanding of available services and a better ability to navigate between primary care services.

In the medium to long term:

5. People to access the right service at right time, more flexibly and in ways that suit them;
6. Strengthened prevention, early intervention and wellness;
7. Better access to trusted information on health and care; and
8. Strengthened contribution to reducing health inequalities.

Scope of the Strategy

We use the term 'primary care' to describe those services that people often use as the first NHS point of contact for their health needs. These are usually provided by general practice, pharmacy, dentistry, optometry (the four main independent contractor and practitioner groups) in our local communities.

Primary care also includes a range of professionals working in wider multi-disciplinary teams e.g., community link workers, pharmacy professionals, allied health professionals e.g. physiotherapists, occupational therapists, dieticians, podiatrists, advance nurse practitioners (ANPs), health support workers, practice managers, care co-ordinators, and social prescribers.

We describe a whole system approach being taken by all our primary care services and workforce working together, as set out above. We also want to work with the wider health and care system – that is, specialist and hospital services, as well as social care and third sector partners.



How we will deliver

Implementation of the Strategy will be directed and overseen by NHSGGC Primary Care Programme Board whose members include all primary care sectors and leads, as well as professional representatives for all independent contractor and provider bodies.

Progress with implementation will be reported primarily to the NHSGGC Corporate Management Team and HSCP Chief Officers, which will ensure that delivery of the Strategy aligns with wider NHSGGC strategic change and HSCP Strategic Plans.

We will set out our work to deliver the Strategy in a five-year implementation plan, which will include key areas of delivery: what will be done, when, and how we will know we have been successful.

It will also set out arrangements to progress wider primary care commitments from existing NHSGGC strategies. We will refresh this annually to ensure it remains up to date.

We will undertake regular monitoring and evaluation of our work to deliver the Strategy to ensure that we can understand and improve the impact of our work. That will focus on the positive results for our patients, as well as to our workforce and healthcare system. Learning will shape future service planning and delivery, including our next strategy for primary care.

