**NHS NETWORKS weekly news stories:**  
11:36am, 13 March 2020  
[Flexible support for PCNs](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/flexible-support-for-pcns)  
PCC has published updated details of our support for primary care networks, including how our services map onto the five domains of the maturity matrix.  
  
11:34am, 13 March 2020  
[Local leaders by design](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/local-leaders-by-design-6)  
Practice managers have always been “local leaders” by default, but the advent of primary care networks (PCNs) will be a stiffer test of leadership ability requiring leaders by design. They will need to become better at enabling relationships, facilitating meetings, developing network plans, keeping people engaged, staying up to date and managing change.  
  
11:31am, 13 March 2020  
[COVID-19: Government announces moving out of contain phase and into delay](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/covid-19-government-announces-moving-out-of-contain-phase-and-into-delay)  
The government has announced that we are moving out of the contain phase and into delay, in response to the ongoing coronavirus outbreak.  
  
11:28am, 13 March 2020  
[CQC briefing on improving safety in NHS maternity services](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/cqc-briefing-on-improving-safety-in-nhs-maternity-services)  
Care Quality Commission has published a briefing paper discussing the key issues that impact on the ability of hospital trusts to provide high quality maternity care.  
  
11:25am, 13 March 2020  
[Health Education England to invest up to £10m in clinical placements across England](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/health-education-england-to-invest-up-to-ps10m-in-clinical-placements-across-england)  
Investment plans to support new undergraduate nurses have been unveiled by Mark Radford, chief nurse at Health Education England, to boost nursing workforce numbers.  
  
11:22am, 13 March 2020  
[Securing the future of social care funding](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/securing-the-future-of-social-care-funding)  
A report from the Voluntary Organisations Disability Group sets out the issues facing disability organisations and why it is important that the government puts in place a sustainable funding plan.  
  
14:09pm, 12 March 2020  
[The stress-resistant manager: building your resilience](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/the-stress-resistant-manager-building-your-resilience-7)  
Most of us will suffer work-related stress – and the problem is most acute for public sector staff, particularly those in the NHS. Many are faced with increasing complexity and rising workload, and report a poor work/life balance as they struggle to reconcile work priorities with home or family commitments.  
  
14:07pm, 12 March 2020  
[Covid-19 plan for practices](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/covid-19-plan-for-practices)  
A Hertfordshire practice has drawn up a plan to keep patients and staff as safe and well as possible during the coronavirus outbreak.  
  
14:05pm, 12 March 2020  
[Cost-effective migraine drug could benefit 10,000](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/cost-effective-migraine-drug-could-benefit-10-000)  
NICE has published final draft guidance which recommends fremanezumab (also called Ajovy and made by Teva Pharmaceuticals) for preventing chronic migraine.  
  
14:03pm, 12 March 2020  
[Coronavirus (Covid-19) infection in pregnancy: information for healthcare professionals](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/coronavirus-covid-19-infection-in-pregnancy-information-for-healthcare-professionals)  
The Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists has published the latest advice on how coronavirus affects pregnant women and their unborn babies, how labour and birth should be managed in women with suspected or confirmed coronavirus, as well as information on neonatal care and infant feeding.  
  
14:02pm, 12 March 2020  
[Euston, we have a problem: is Britain ready for an infrastructure revolution?](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/euston-we-have-a-problem-is-britain-ready-for-an-infrastructure-revolution)  
The centrepiece of the new government’s first Budget is expected to be an “infrastructure revolution” – spending at least an additional £100 billion over the next five years on public investment.  
  
14:36pm, 11 March 2020  
[March issue of PCC Insight – focus on PCNs](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/march-issue-of-pcc-insight-2013-focus-on-pcns)  
With a new GP contract due to take effect next month, the March issue of PCC Insight looks at the impact of changes to the network DES in light of the consultation earlier this year.  
  
14:35pm, 11 March 2020  
[NHS to ramp up coronavirus testing labs](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/nhs-to-ramp-up-coronavirus-testing-labs)  
Public Health England (PHE) is expanding laboratory capacity to help the health service carry out 10,000 coronavirus tests a day.  
  
14:34pm, 11 March 2020  
[NHS standard contract 2020/21 - response to consultation](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/nhs-standard-contract-2020-21-response-to-consultation)  
NHS England has now published the final NHS standard contract and accompanying technical guidance for 2020/21.  
  
14:33pm, 11 March 2020  
[Home and dry: the need for decent homes in later life](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/home-and-dry-the-need-for-decent-homes-in-later-life)  
A report from older people’s charity Care & Repair England reveals that more than 2 million over-55s are living in a home that endangers their health or wellbeing.  
  
14:30pm, 11 March 2020  
[Menopause at work](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/menopause-at-work)  
Guidance from the NHS staff council's health, safety and wellbeing partnership group considers how organisations can provide better support to women going through the menopause.  
  
14:29pm, 11 March 2020  
[NHS and Google act to ensure that health information can be trusted](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/nhs-and-google-act-to-ensure-that-health-information-can-be-trusted)  
The NHS has taken steps to ensure that people can find reliable health information online.  
  
16:35pm, 10 March 2020  
[Introduction to project management](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/introduction-to-project-management-7)  
Project management requires a specific set of skills, some of which we possess naturally and can learn to use more effectively. But it also requires knowledge and a well-defined approach. This one day training session is for everyone who has responsibility for projects or is part of a project team.  
  
16:33pm, 10 March 2020  
[£2.1m funding for community partnerships](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/ps2-1m-funding-for-community-partnerships)  
The Health Foundation has launched a new £2.1m programme for partnerships to improve healthcare services through collaborative communities.  
  
16:31pm, 10 March 2020  
[UK GPs want longer consultations](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/uk-gps-want-longer-consultations)  
Just one in four UK GPs are satisfied with the time they are able to spend with patients. The finding is from a report by the Health Foundation which found appointment times in the UK to be among the shortest of 11 countries surveyed.  
  
16:29pm, 10 March 2020  
[Chief scientific officer’s strategy](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/chief-scientific-officer2019s-strategy)  
The chief scientific offer has published a plan for the healthcare science profession aligned to the commitments of the NHS Long Term Plan and the forthcoming people plan.  
  
16:26pm, 10 March 2020  
[General ophthalmic services workforce statistics](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/general-ophthalmic-services-workforce-statistics-2)  
NHS Digital has published details of the workforce providing high-street optician services under the NHS general ophthalmic services contract.  
  
13:24pm, 9 March 2020  
[Building capability: primary care premises and estates foundations](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/building-capability-primary-care-premises-and-estates-foundations-2)  
Premises policy is a vital component of high quality primary care, and is set to become more important as premises are developed to support the policy ambitions of primary care networks and integrated care.  
  
13:23pm, 9 March 2020  
[What role do taxes and regulation play in promoting better health?](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/what-role-do-taxes-and-regulation-play-in-promoting-better-health)  
A King’s Fund briefing looks at the use of regulatory and fiscal policy tools in improving public health.  
  
13:21pm, 9 March 2020  
[Coronavirus: action plan - a guide to what you can expect across the UK](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/coronavirus-action-plan-a-guide-to-what-you-can-expect-across-the-uk)  
This document sets out what the UK as a whole has done – and plans to do – to tackle the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak, based on experiences of dealing with other infectious diseases and influenza pandemic preparedness work.  
  
13:19pm, 9 March 2020  
[AHP film for schools promotes NHS careers](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/ahp-film-for-schools-promotes-nhs-careers)  
Health Education England has launched a film aimed at schoolchildren to promote careers in the allied health professions.  
  
13:18pm, 9 March 2020  
[Prescription charge to rise to £9.15](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/prescription-charge-to-rise-to-ps9.15)  
The government has announced an increase to the NHS prescription charge of 15 pence, to £9.15 per prescription item.  
  
13:16pm, 9 March 2020  
[Science committee consults on low carb diets for type 2 diabetes](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/science-committee-consults-on-low-card-diets-for-type-2-diabetes)  
The scientific advisory committee on nutrition (SACN) has published a consultation on its draft report on lower carbohydrate diets for people with type 2 diabetes.