

Derbyshire GPPB Narrative: April 2025

1. Introduction

Derbyshire General Practice Provider Board (GPPB) provides a collaborative voice for developing the future of general practice provision within the Derbyshire health and care system.

Established in 2022, we bring together the 111 practices and 18 primary care networks (PCNs) across Derbyshire. We make sure the voice and perspective of general practice is heard.

Our vision is to: *maximise the opportunities to lead general practice to improve patient outcomes and reduce health inequalities.*

We take a progressive, collaborative, supportive and transformative approach so that general practice thrives.

We connect general practice in Derbyshire with the broader health and care system, helping to guide strategy and decisions.

We are:

- Giving general practice a unified voice
- Ensuring general practice is understood
- Influencing commissioning and delivery of services
- Placing general practice at the heart of healthcare
- Empowering practices to design the future of general practice
- Creating more equitable general practice services
- Improving workforce security, sustainability and work/life balance
- Enhancing patient care and experience

2. Who we are

There are 111 general practices across Derbyshire, with a workforce of around 3,670. We give these providers a unified voice through strong representation on the board.

Our board is independently chaired by Martin Whittle and includes representatives from each of the three areas which make up Derby and Derbyshire – North, South, City. All have seats on the board for a PCN clinical director, a PCN manager and an LMC representative. There are also representatives from partner organisations, Derby and Derbyshire LMC (DDLMC) and Hub+.

Board membership is made up of:

- Martin Whittle, Chair
- North
 - Dr Hazel McMurray, GPPB Director and North PCN Clinical Director and Area Board Chair
 - Dr Peter Williams, GPPB Director and North DDLMC representative
 - Tom Watson, North PCN Manager
- South
 - Dr Andrew Maronge, GPPB Director and South PCN Clinical Director and Area Board Chair

- Dr Emma Pizzey, GPPB Director and South DDLMC representative
- Rakesh Marwaha, South PCN Manager
- City
 - Dr Helen Hill, GPPB Director and City PCN Clinical Director
 - Dr Merry Watkins, GPPB Director and City DDLMC representative
 - Saleem Naqwi, City PCN Manager
- Dr Duncan Gooch, GPPB Clinical Lead
- Dr Ben Milton, DDLMC
- Dr Susie Bayley, Hub+

The board is supported by a small executive team, comprising of:

- Ian Potter, Managing Director
- Dr Andrew Mott, Medical Director
- Dr Drew Smith, Deputy Medical Director
- Kate Chilton, Head of Operations and Delivery
- Emma Brailsford, Operations Manager
- Tia Julal-Rowe, Administrator

Our clinical leads focus on specific priorities, these include:

- Data and digital – Vacant
- Mental health, learning disability and autism health and care partnership – Dr Zohra Jafri
- MSK pathway – Dr Jonathan Burton and Dr Sophie Harvey
- Research – Dr Beth Marney
- Targeted lung health check – Dr Jenny Pickard
- Neighbourhood health services – Dr Duncan Gooch
- Empowering general practice programme – Dr Drew Smith

3. Our role in the Derbyshire health and care system

In an effective health and care system, general practice serves as the first point of contact, providing continuous, comprehensive, and coordinated care, while also acting as a gatekeeper to specialist services and managing chronic conditions within communities.

In Derby and Derbyshire, general practice provides nearly seven million appointments each year, which is more than 550,000 a month or 134,000 a week. Despite the increase in appointments provided by general practice patient demand still outstrips the capacity available.

In Derbyshire, the health and care system is known as Joined Up Care Derbyshire. It is responsible for coordinating health and social care across Derby and Derbyshire. It brings together NHS bodies, local authorities and voluntary sector organisations to deliver better care for our whole community.

The part of Joined Up Care Derbyshire responsible for planning health services for the 1.1 million local population is called NHS Derby and Derbyshire Integrated Care Board (ICB).

Within the ICB is a provider collaborative which brings together the organisations that provide healthcare services to local people to improve the way care is delivered. Together, providers develop solutions to challenges, strengthen partnerships, address inefficiencies, and improve access, while reducing inequalities. The GPPB is an active member of Joined Up Care Derbyshire's provider collaborative, which helps ensure general practice is central to transforming healthcare delivery.

We work alongside Derby and Derbyshire Local Medical Committee (DDLMC) and Hub+ Derbyshire. All three organisations are working towards improving general practice, but with a slightly different focus. The table below provides an overview of our roles and how we benefit our shared stakeholders.

	GPPB	DDLMC	Hub+
Purpose	Voice To provide a collaborative voice for developing the future of general practice provision within the Derbyshire health and care system.	Representation To represent the views of member practices to consult, feedback, negotiate and influence contractual policy and general practice regulations locally, regionally and nationally.	Wraparound support To nurture the Derbyshire primary care workforce through provision of training, development and support for existing and future staff.
Benefits for patients	A stronger future for general practice means sustainable, consistent, high-quality care, delivering improved outcomes and a better experience.	A better future for general practice means patients can access the care when they need it, closer to home.	A happy, healthier workforce accessing up-to-date training and education provides the best patient care. Quality improvement, patient safety and addressing health priorities and inequalities are at the heart of workstreams.
Benefits for GPs and practices	Empowers practices to play an active role in shaping the future of general practice, making their voice heard to transform how healthcare is delivered.	Provides expert guidance, advocacy, and practical support to ensure GPs and practices are valued, fairly compensated, and able to focus on delivering high-quality patient care.	Delivers a breadth of programmes and initiatives in collaboration with practices, making sure all team members have a voice that counts.
Benefits for PCNs	Upskills, develops and supports PCNs, enabling them to lead and deliver initiatives that strengthen their role now and into the future.	Supports PCNs by ensuring strong relationships between practices and good governance and offers facilitation where needed in disputes.	Provides expert advice and individual and team development to enable the workforce to deliver high-quality services at scale within PCNs.

Benefits for the wider health and care system	In representing the collective voices of general practice, the GPPB helps the ICB to design sustainable services that meet local people's needs. This aims to keep care closer to home and reduce pressure on hospitals.	By ensuring the GP contract is understood, and new services are commissioned and funded correctly, the LMC helps keep general practice operating effectively for patients and the wider healthcare system.	Providing opportunities and programmes to support individuals, practices and teams promotes a strong general practice workforce which ensures a thriving integrated care system. Promoting best practice in recruitment, induction, training and retention empowers and upskills the current workforce and the workforce of tomorrow.
Further information / contacts	derbyshire.gppb@nhs.net	derbyshirelmc.org.uk	thehubplus.co.uk

4. What we do and how we do it

We are predominantly funded by Derby and Derbyshire Integrated Care Board (ICB), which enables us to play a key role in the development and delivery of healthcare services across Derby and Derbyshire.

We focus on transforming general practice from the ground up to ensure consistent, high-quality care which improves patient outcomes and experience. We collaborate with, involve and engage all practices and PCNs to better understand the needs within general practice. We use this insight to influence planning of general practice at a system level, to make sure it meets the needs of both providers and their patients.

Our work aligns with national and ICB priorities and we proactively seek and shape opportunities for general practice within that.

The ICB commissions us to undertake areas of work that support the system, recognising the crucial role general practices plays. As an organisation, we work inline with our vision, mission and values to deliver these priorities and also identify our own priorities which will benefit general practice. Our high level programmes of work are outlined below.

Core themes

These are the primary areas of focus that drive our overall goals:

1. Representation / voice

- Engage with the system at all levels on behalf of general practice and PCNs.
- Be the main point of contact for system partners to engage with general practice.
- Advocate and demonstrate the unique value that general practice provides.
- Provide a collaborative voice for developing the future of general practice provision within the Derbyshire health and care system.

2. Empowerment and support

- Lead the development and implementation of the Empowering General Practice Programme, ensuring general practice determines how it develops.
- Provide and support clinical and managerial leadership, enhancing the voice and understanding of general practice.

- PCN (Primary Care Network) development – empowering PCNs to have a greater voice and lead initiatives that are important to general practice.

3. Service development and improvement

- Elective recovery – notably waiting list management and referral optimisation.
- Neighbourhood health services – GPPB is central to these developments.
- Urgent and emergency care – building on the community urgent care model, including virtual wards.

4. Governance and leadership

- Board development and corporate governance – robust governance to ensure collaboration, transparency and delivery.

Cross-cutting areas

These are themes that support or enable our core themes, cutting across multiple areas:

1. Communication and engagement

- In conjunction with the LMC, develop, lead, and coordinate communication with general practice to ensure a consistent and coherent representative voice in the Derby and Derbyshire system.

2. Data and digital

- Implementing data and digital initiatives, especially population health management and stratification, use of general practice-held data, better digital tools such as triage and AI assistants.

3. Collaboration and partnerships

- Clinical leads, managerial leads, and system partners working together to achieve these goals, ensuring general practice leaders are supported and influence the future delivery of health care.

Our role in influencing, delivering, advocating, and defending general practice is woven through these themes. The core themes address direct actions taken to empower, improve, and support general practice, while the cross-cutting themes emphasise the importance of communication, data and partnerships in ensuring general practice is effectively represented and supported.