

Survey of GPs

The Audit Commission surveyed all (n=1062) GPs across ten primary care trusts taking part in the study about redesign of care pathways. A one-page questionnaire was sent to GPs between June and August 2003. GPs were asked how their local PCT consulted with, and acted on, their views, in particular when the PCT was considering changes to the ways in which health care services were delivered or commissioned.

439 (41%) questionnaires were completed by GPs and returned to the study team. The questionnaire and findings are summarised below:

Questionnaire and findings

1 Was your practice formerly: (*tick all that apply*)

Fundholding (43.6%)	Non-fundholding (43.8%)	Part of a GP commissioning group (4.1%)
Part of a total purchasing pilot (2.9%)	Part of a multifund (3.6%)	

2 How long have you worked within the PCT's geographical area?

1-2 years (12.1%)	3-5 years (15.6%)
5 + years (72.3%)	

3 Are you a member of any PCT committees/working groups or the PEC, or are you a GP lead?

Yes (29.4%)	None of these (70.6%)
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4 In your view, do you receive **sufficient information from the PCT** on its overall priorities and strategies for investment (in primary and secondary care, in workforce etc)?

Too much information (8.5%)	An appropriate amount (36.8%)	Not enough information (46.9%)
Don't know (7.8%)		

5 Does the *PCT Professional Executive Committee* or its members keep you sufficiently updated on the PCT's priorities and strategies?

Yes, fully (13.1%)	Somewhat (52%)	No (26%)	Don't know (9%)
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6 In your view, do you have sufficient **opportunity to influence the PCT** in the following areas:

a acute commissioning:	Yes (6.4%)	Somewhat (22%)	No (62.5%)	Don't know (9.2%)
b primary care development:	Yes (10.8%)	Somewhat (36.6)	No (44.6%)	Don't know (8%)
c investment in particular clinical areas/patient groups:	Yes (7.3%)	Somewhat (32.5)	No (51.5%)	Don't know (8.7%)

7 Do you feel that the *PCT Professional Executive Committee* represents your views?

Yes, fully (6.7%)	Somewhat (42%)	No (29.6%)	Don't know (21.7%)
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8 Considering your practice population, in which clinical areas do you feel there is a need to develop/invest in services (in primary or secondary care)? **Responses are specific to the PCT in which the GP practises, therefore data not presented here.**

a _____
b _____
c _____

9 Have these areas been raised with:

a the PCT?	All (38.9%)	Some (32.4%)	None (3.5%)	Don't know (25.2%)
b the PEC?	All (20.3%)	Some (18.4%)	None (8%)	Don't know (53.3%)

10 Have these areas been acted on locally?

All (3.6%)	Some (46.5%)	None (21.2%)	Don't know (28.6%)
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11 New primary care-based services in *[examples]* have been developed in your area: **Responses are specific to the PCT in which the GP practises, therefore data not presented here.**

a Do/did you consider this specialty to be a priority need for your practice population? Yes No Don't know

b Have you received sufficient information on the range of conditions with which patients can be referred to the service? Yes No Don't know

c Are you happy to send those patients to the service? Yes No Don't know

12 Would you be interested becoming a GP with a special interest? Yes (32.6%) No (43.2%) I already am (13.8%)
I was formerly (2.1%) Don't know (8.2%)

13 If yes, which specialty would interest you? *Examples included cardiology, dermatology, eating disorders, diabetes, mental health, sexual health, care of the elderly, paediatrics, palliative care, ENT, rheumatology, ophthalmology, orthopaedics, drug abuse*