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High Commended: Medicines Safety Improvement Programme (MedSIP) HSJ Patient Safety Congress and Awards

The Pain Café's work with the National Medicines Safety Improvement Programme (MedSIP) and Health Innovation Southwest and West was rewarded as **'Highly Commended'** at the HSJ Patient Safety Congress and Awards on 28th Sept 2026.

The project was aimed at addressing the widespread prescribing of opioids for long term pain. Our work with pain cafes has been central to supporting a reduction in medication related harm the national MedSIP programme.

The collaborative approach with Health Innovation networks helped moved toward a model that includes self-management, personalised care and shared decision-making.

The national case study highlighted that

- 54,824 fewer people prescribed oral or transdermal opioids for more than 3 months
- 13 334 fewer people per month prescribed with high dose opioids
- estimated 884 lives saved over two years
- 12 000 people benefitted from chronic pain self-management support
- 65 plus New pain cafes and groups now in existence

Whilst the economic impact was not measured, the impact on managing non-cancer chronic pain was noted locally with reports of people returning to work, civic engagement and more able to manage daily living.

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