

*Dear Colleagues*

**Wessex LMCs News Update from the Team. . .**

## **Wessex LMCs Intro...**



*Will Howard  
Medical Director  
Wessex Local Medical Committees Ltd*

You may remember that just under a year ago Wessex LMCs highlighted a review of General Practice that was being undertaken by the Health and Social Care Parliamentary Committee: "The Future of General Practice".

This review has been chaired by the Rt Honourable Jeremy Hunt MP (before he became Chancellor of the Exchequer). Last year we worked hard to get anyone involved in the provision of General Practice to contribute to the report. We are very proud to report that Wessex LMCs was amongst the best represented areas in England as contributors to the evidence feeding into the report which was published on 11<sup>th</sup> October 2022. At the end of the document is a reference appendix, and it highlights that Wessex LMCs GPs, Practice Managers and Practices as groups contributed 91 of the 356 pieces of evidence considered. A huge thank you for taking the time to represent our profession. You can follow the link below to be taken to the report to read it in full:



### [The Future of General Practice Report](#)

Although the press took from the report what they wanted, often reporting it with a negative slant regarding GPs, the report itself recognises the huge pressure which is present in General Practice for all staff. It has noted that General Practice is the most important part of the NHS, and that without General Practice the NHS will fail. Below is a link to the executive summary on our web page, but I thought we could perhaps highlight one of its final paragraphs:

*"Finally, it is time to recognise the need to make the job not just manageable but once again fulfilling and enjoyable. General practice really should be the jewel in the crown of the NHS, one of the services most valued by its patients. For doctors it should allow a cradle to grave relationship with patients not possible for other specialties but for many infinitely more rewarding. To do that general practice needs to have its professional status restored with a decisive move away from micromanagement and short staffing to a win-win environment in which investment in general practice reduces pressure on hospitals and saves resources for the NHS"*

## [Report Summary](#)

This report sheds light on what is happening now in General Practice and recommends actions the government can take to make our working lives and environments more acceptable, allowing us to provide the care to patients that every GP aspires to.

It is heartening to read that the Parliamentary Committee recognises that GP Practices are offering more appointments than ever to patients, and with fewer whole time equivalent GPs delivering those appointments. Timely access to GPs as a political driver has led to decreased continuity of care, and the report highlights how this loss of continuity is partly to blame for a rising demand and a drop off in job satisfaction. There is a recognition of the use of locum GPs as a sole provider of care can lead to problems, but we must not lose the flexibility of a locum workforce in delivering capacity for our future. Moving forwards the Committee calls on government to abolish QOF and IIF, recognising them as tools of micromanagement, and there should be an aim to limit whole time equivalent list sizes per GP to 2500, with a forward view to reduce this to 1850. Wessex LMCs were also encouraged to read that the report highlights the values of the Partnership model and how this should be further strengthened.

We recognise the report findings, although they make sobering reading. We will watch with interest to see how the government responds and await confirmation of how they will address the issues raised

## **Accelerated Access to GP Held Patient Records - Update**

NHS England has updated their statement regarding the automation of citizen access to their GP Data, which triggered from the 1st Nov. General practice still retains full local rights, along with options to disable the new functionality and/or withhold patient access based on their role as data controllers. We would recommend reading the full statement at: [An update from NHS England on Accelerating Citizen Access to GP Data \(1 November 2022\) - NHS Digital](#) but NHSE has summarised the following:

**For those practices that ask EMIS and TPP by 5pm on 4 November 2022 to not enable the change, we have instructed both suppliers to pause.**

These practices must use this time to engage with their local commissioners should they need additional support and agree plans to prepare before their systems are **automatically enabled from 30 November 2022**. The [general practice readiness checklist](#) should be used to help with preparations.

**For all other practices that will not have informed EMIS and TPP to pause by 5pm on 4 November we will continue to work with EMIS and TPP to implement the change as planned, with prospective data entered into patient records from 1 November 2022 automatically becoming visible in a phased way.**

## [Download the General Practice Readiness Checklist](#)

You may also wish to refer to the BMA's statement on accelerated access setting out the options available to practices, which we referenced in last week's newsletter and which you can revisit at: [Wessex LMCs Newsletter - Thursday 27th October 2022](#)

## **Shape the UK's Covid-19 Commemoration Plans**

People across the UK are being invited to have their say on how the nation should remember those who lost their lives during the Covid-19 pandemic. Read more and take part in the consultation here: [Public asked to help shape UK's Covid-19 commemoration plans - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

## Mental Health & Wellbeing

Health and wellbeing in the workplace has never been more vital than in the last year. To develop a culture of wellbeing, it should be recognised that the responsibility lies with everyone, and we can all contribute towards this. Read [top tips for embedding a wellbeing culture](#)

“ 8.4 days are lost through employee absences per year.”  
2019 Health and Wellbeing Survey, Chartered Institute of  
Personnel and Development

What are social care mental health and wellbeing champions?

At its core, the role of a wellbeing champion is to support the mental health and wellbeing of their colleagues. Within this, there is clear scope to tailor the role of wellbeing champions to the needs of the organisation and its workforce. Find out more about becoming a wellbeing champion and how your workplace can benefit [here](#)

### Wessex Support Hubs for Practice Staff

Banes, Swindon & Wiltshire: [BSW Wellbeing Matters service](#)

Dorset: [The ICS staff wellbeing service – Here For Each Other \(joinourdorset.nhs.uk\)](#)

Hants & IOW: [HIOW Staff Support Hub](#)

## Wessex Education & Events

### Management of Chronic Pain and Deprescribing

Wednesday 18th January 2023, 09:30-10:30

Wessex LMC Members £20pp

Book Online: <https://www.wessexlmcs.com/events/14469>

[NICE guidance on the management of chronic pain](#) and on [deprescribing drugs of dependency](#) have brought the issues of both pain and prescription painkiller dependency to the fore. Last year's PCN prescribing incentive scheme also makes it clear that the expectation is that the vast majority of these drugs are tapered off where appropriate.

The purpose of this interactive one-hour webinar is to cover the “how to” as it usually isn't easy.



- Understand the scale of the problem and the potential adverse effects of long-term opioid therapy.
- Learn tips to help improve your practice systems (including system template guidance)
- Understand how to move your patients way from medical dependency to a more self-reliant method

Please note this session will be recorded and available to purchase afterwards [here](#)

### How To... Premises – How to unpick the detail

Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2023 09:30 – 12:30

FULLY FUNDED for Wessex LMC Members

Book Online: <https://www.wessexlmcs.com/events/14016>

This interactive online session is aimed at GPs, Senior Leaders and Partners in General Practice working the Wessex area. This webinar will look at:

- Premises – how to unpick the detail. This module will cover:
- The big question – are premises an opportunity or a burden?
- Responsibilities of owning a building & buying in – should you be scared?

- Responsibilities of being named on a lease – what does this mean for me?
- Taking on being the 'premises lead' – how can you train yourself up to do this well?
- How does the money work? Does it stack up?
- Making the right decision – how do you do it?

*Please note this session will be recorded and available to purchase afterwards [here](#)*

Regards  
The LMC Team

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