

*Dear Colleagues*

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

## Wessex LMCs Intro...



*Andy Purbrick  
Joint CEO  
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Dear Colleagues

It was great to be able to catch up with so many of you at our Wessex LMCs annual conference on Tuesday.

We heard from Professor Clare Fuller, a practicing GP, Chief Executive of Surrey Heartlands ICS and author of [Microsoft Word - FINAL 003 250522 - Fuller report\[46\].docx \(england.nhs.uk\)](#). The Fuller Stocktake describes a vision for integrating Primary Care into the ICSs. All ICS Chairs have signed up to delivering on her recommendations and it was useful to hear her perspective on how she thought this would support general practice going forward. As an LMC we will be holding ICBs to account on delivering her recommendations.

Deputy Chair of The General Practitioners Committee of the BMA, Dr Kieran Sharrock gave us an update on current and future GP contract negotiations. Our current five-year contract framework concludes in March 2024. Negotiations for the final year of this contract should have commenced already but have been delayed by the recent political turmoil which has resulted in NHSEI not actually having a mandate on which to negotiate. Negotiations should theoretically be signed off by the end of December and when they do commence, they are likely to focus on seeking to negotiate as many workload and bureaucracy reduction changes, urgent financial support for rising practice costs/expenses, retention of as much of the existing GP workforce as possible and prioritising staff wellbeing.

The BMA is trying to engage widely with the profession on what the new 2024/25 and beyond GMS contract should look like. The conference was an opportunity for GPC to hear directly from representatives of general practice in Wessex.

Workload, workforce, and wellbeing will be the focus of any new contract negotiations. With treasury indicating that there will be little in the way of new money, any contract needs to be dramatically simplified. We must be allowed to do less, focus on core general practice, and move away from the obsession for financial incentives and targets which have little evidence for improving primary care. There needs to be a focus on efficient use of scarce resources, and we must be trusted to deliver on patient needs at a local level. There needs to be 'whole system' responsibility for the patient within the ICS and no longer a perception that general practice is the bottomless default when all else is failing. We need a safe working environment that encourages retention and recruitment of all general practice staff.

## GPC England Meeting Update

GPC England met on 3rd November.

### Background

This was one of the four scheduled meetings of GPC England per session. The meeting was held in the context of the ongoing impact of Citizens access to data programme implementation, and contractual negotiations which had stalled due to turmoil in government and NHSE/I lacking a mandate.

Below is a brief summary of the key issues discussed at the meeting.

### Citizen Access to Data

The committee received an update on the issue and were informed that the officers had been having regular meetings with NHS Digital and system suppliers to raise the profession's concerns regarding the programme and offer solutions, ahead of the deadline on 1 November. The key areas of legal enquiry have been around the data controller and data processor relationship, what is in the regulations, and KC legal advice has been sought. The Secretary of State made a statement on 31 October, confirming that he wanted to take it forward, but the system suppliers had paused it temporarily. The committee were informed that further legal advice is being sought and that the committee would be informed of next steps.

Concerns were also raised whether any secondary care representatives had been consulted, and that there was a lack understanding regarding the impact of this programme in secondary care. The officer team updated, that they and the BMA were looking to issue some guidance on this for the benefit of secondary care colleagues.

### 2023 Contractual Negotiations

The committee received an update on the progress of the current contractual negotiations for the final year of the 2019-2024 contract framework. Unfortunately, due to political instability in Westminster over the last couple of months, negotiations were yet to commence. NHSE was still to receive its mandate from the Department of Health and Social Care, so discussions had not started in earnest yet. Committee members were informed that, due to NHSE's proposed short timeframe for these negotiations, the scope is likely to be limited to items already agreed within the contract framework.

### Collective Action Planning

Following on from the update at the previous meeting regarding the establishment of the working group, the committee were updated that the group had now met twice. In these meetings they had discussed the following items; what potential options for industrial action are there in general practice, what options are there for the aim of any industrial action, how to build an effective and persuasive narrative around IA, along with considering how we could develop an activist network, similar to how junior doctors have done.

### Negotiation Prioritisation

The committee received an updated version of a paper that was previously shared before the July and September meetings. This reflected GPCE's developing and evolving negotiating positions, as informed by committee, LMC and profession discussions and engagement to date, as well as external developments.

Furthermore, during breakout group discussions, committee members discussed the elements of a reformed GMS contract that should be prioritised, and what services could be commissioned elsewhere across primary care and community care based upon the capacity and workload challenges facing general practice. These standing ongoing discussions inform the development of GPCE's negotiation positions ahead of them being formally agreed by the committee in the coming 12 months before 2024/25 contract negotiations commence (likely autumn 2023).

## GPCE approach to negotiations for 2023 and 2024

The committee received and discussed a paper which provided some background information as to the approach that GPCE take in negotiations, and why this approach was adopted.

In addition, in relation to the forthcoming negotiations for the new 2024/25 contract, due to be implemented in April 2024, the committee were asked to decide what body should act as the reference group to provide oversight and scrutiny. Committee members decided that the full GPCE committee should act as the reference group, rather than establish a bespoke, smaller reference group, as has been done before by other branch of practice committees. The committee were also asked how the outcome of the 2024 negotiations should be agreed. Members present decided that they as a committee should review any negotiation outcome from the 2024/25 negotiations before deciding whether it should be put to a membership referendum for decision.

## Draft strategy for GPC England

An initial draft strategy for GPC England was presented to the committee by the GPCE officer team for their consideration and feedback. The aim of this strategy would be to provide a clear and succinct outline of what the committee's vision for general practice in England. This item had been discussed at the September meeting of GPCE, but was discussed again, as there was not enough time at the last meeting to discuss it properly.

In addition, the strategy would aim to define committee's goals, and what its objectives are which would help it achieve its goals and vision. Furthermore, the strategy would seek to define what actions the committee would take to fulfil its ambitions and what specific non-subjective outcomes could be used to measure the success of the committee.

The committee had the opportunity to discuss the draft strategy in detail during a roundtables session that was held. This was a very early discussion in the development of this strategy, and it will seek to be developed through iterative discussions with the committee and reflecting discussions at LMC England conference in late-November.

## Accelerated Access to GP-held Patient Records Podcast



Lisa Harding, Director of Primary Care at Wessex LMCs, talks with Caroline Sims, Information Governance Consultant and Data Protection Officer in the Hampshire & IOW area.

This podcast may be particularly helpful to share with your admin teams.

Listen to the podcast [here](#)

Caroline explains:

- What accelerated access to GP-held patient records is
- What is meant by prospective access
- What patients will be able to see
- Which patients will have online access
- How proxy access will work
- How patients can access their record
- If patients can see redacted information
- If patients will be able to see who has accessed and made an entry on their record

## Updates to GMS Statement of Financial Entitlements (SFE)

Commissioners and contractors should be aware that an updated version of the [GMS Statement of Financial Entitlements \(SFE\)](#) was published on 27 October 2022. This version includes the recently updated dispensing fee scales and a consolidation of the vaccination and immunisation chapters. Commissioners and general practices may wish to use this version of the SFE about vaccination and immunisation requirements and payment information for ease of reference.

## Network Contract DES Guidance - Pay codes updated from 1<sup>st</sup> November

When NHS England published the October variation to the Network Contract DES (directed enhanced service), and [associated guidance](#), there were a number of placeholders in the payments section of the guidance while they waited for new pay codes to be produced. This reflected the transition from Calculating Quality Reporting Service (CQRS) and manual payments to automated payments via Primary Care Support England (PCSE) Online, as well as the short notice introduction of the new primary care network Capacity and Access Payment. The new automated pay codes are now in place and ready for use, in the updated [guidance](#).

## Publication of General Practice Appointment data on 24<sup>th</sup> November

On 24 November, NHS Digital intends to publish experimental practice level data as laid out in the Secretary of State's [Our Plan for Patients](#). This data will be added to the monthly [Appointments in General Practice publication](#) using the data collected regularly from GP system suppliers. If practices want to review their data ahead of the release, they can access it via their [practice level dashboard](#).

## Snapshot Survey - The Future of General Practice

What are your views on the [Health and Social Care Select Committee report on the future of general practice?](#)

- Support all the recommendations
- Support most of the recommendations
- Support about half of the recommendations
- Support less than half of the recommendations
- Do not support any of the recommendations
- I haven't read the report

Answer the brief survey [here](#)

## Punitive Pensions Tax Rules

The BMA Pensions Committee provided a recent update on their continued lobbying of Government to fix punitive pension tax rules. If you haven't already done so, the BMA is encouraging you to take a look at the newsletter which is available to view [here](#).

## Trust Registration Requirements

The GPDF has published a guidance note on primary care related trust registration requirements, which have come about as a result of the Fifth Anti-Money Laundering Directive. The guidance outlines a process by which practitioners can determine whether their trust may benefit from one of the exemptions, or whether they are required to register as a trust. The deadline for registering non-exempt trusts created before 3 June 2022 passed on 1 September 2022; trusts created after 3 June 2022 must be registered within 90 days. Read the [guidance note](#)

## NHS Heatmap' will show GP Practices on 'Red Alert'

[General Practice Alert State 'GPAS'](#) has been running in the Wessex LMCs localities since May 2022. It's a project that converts a small amount of weekly practice data into an equivalent OPEL assessment, which in turn is used to create a weekly sitrep. The sitreps are sent weekly to stakeholders to indicate to the broader system the strain General Practice is under. They also give our Directors tools to aid meaningful discussions. It is anonymous and confidential. The information supplied is held by Wessex LMCs.

The GPAS system continues to evolve and is being rolled out across LMCs nationwide and developed to feed a national standardised dashboard.

Read the Pulse article [National heatmap of GP pressure to be available from spring next year](#)  
Read the NASGP article ['NHS Heatmap Will Show GP Practices on Red Alert'](#)

## A Reminder: How Frontline Healthcare Staff should get their Winter Vaccines

We would like to remind colleagues how frontline health and social care staff should be getting their winter vaccines this season. The COVID-19 booster should be booked either by their employer, or by the staff member booking through the National Booking Service, by calling 119, or using the online vaccination walk-in finder.

The flu vaccine should be offered through their employer if the staff member is not eligible for the free NHS vaccine due to their age or clinical risk group. The NHS offers a complementary scheme for frontline health and social care workers employed by specific social care providers that can't get the vaccine through their employer.

## Winter Vaccination Campaign Resources

The annual Winter Vaccination campaign is now live and runs until 18 December 2022. The campaign is designed to encourage uptake by signalling the importance of both the Covid and flu vaccines and informing the public about the threat of both viruses circulating this winter, to overcome barriers and remind people of the benefits of vaccines. The campaign includes broadcast TV, video on demand, broadcast and digital radio, social and digital media, multicultural media, PR and partnerships activity. Primary care teams can get involved by using these [free resources](#).

## LMC England Conference 2022

The [Agenda for the 2022 LMC England](#) Conference in London which takes place on 24 November, and the [Agenda for a special conference on 25 November](#), have now been published. For more information see [Local medical committees](#).

## Mental Health & Wellbeing

**National Self Care Week**  
14<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> November 2022



[Self Care Week](#) is an annual national awareness week that focuses on embedding support for self care.

In addition to helping people look after their own health, Self Care Week is also used to promote better use of the NHS by signposting people to the right service relevant to their health needs – in particular, signposting people to pharmacy for accessible health care and advice.

[The Self Care Forum fact sheets](#) aim to help clinicians discuss issues around self care within the practice/pharmacy setting and especially how to handle the symptoms in the future.

[This fact sheet](#) provides tips on what you can do to maintain and improve your mood.



## 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](#)

## The Oliver McGowan Mandatory Training on Learning Disability & Autism

The Oliver McGowan e-learning package is now available via [e-learning for health](#). This training “will equip the health and social care workforce with the right skills, knowledge & confidence they need to improve provide safe, compassionate and informed care and outcomes for people with a learning disability and autistic people.”



The training is mandatory under the [Health and Care Act 2022](#) and will be in the Code of Practice due to be published in 2023. According to their website, [CQC](#) is awaiting the Code of Practice before explicitly telling practices what evidence they are expecting to see.

The initial e-learning package is for all staff. There is then Tier 1 training (1 hour webinar) for all staff not delivering patient care. There is Tier 2 training (1 day face to face) for all those delivering patient care. The Tier 1 and Tier 2 training is not yet available and the ICBs are tasked with providing this.

**Next steps:** Wessex LMCs are getting an opinion from the BMA regarding this training. We are also talking to CQC about what their expectations are from practices. Wessex LMCs are also requesting progress on this from all the ICBs we liaise with.

## Wessex Education & Events

### Basic Skin Lesion Recognition with a Dermoscope

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2023, 12:30 – 14:00

Wessex LMC Members £25pp

Book Online: <https://www.wessexlmcs.com/events/14289>

To become a real expert with the dermoscope takes time and mentoring, but clinical trials have shown that GPs can significantly improve their ability to recognise skin cancers after just one day of training.

The Primary Care Dermatology Society has long advocated that GPs and practice nurses should use dermoscopy primarily to support the diagnosis of everyday benign lesions (warts, banal naevi, haemangiomas etc) to avoid patients with such lesions being sent needlessly on cancer pathways.



Aimed at GPs, ANPs & Allied Health Professionals in Primary Care. This session aims to give delegates a greater understanding of lesion diagnostics using a dermoscope

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

### Data Breaches in General Practice

Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2023 10:00 – 11:00

Wessex LMC Members £20pp

Book Online: <https://www.wessexlmcs.com/events/14447>

This webinar is suitable for anyone who already has a basic understanding of the concepts behind information governance in General Practice. It will also be suitable for all senior members of staff who want a greater understanding of this area.



Topics covered include:

- what are data breaches
- what processes are needed
- how to report a data breach
- scenarios to discuss
- broader data breaches i.e., not just patients but also those relating to staff/GPs and sharing of PID with external agencies, and when it should be anonymised

*Please note this session is NOT being recorded*

## Veteran Health in Primary Care

With an estimated 2million veterans in the UK, the average general practice sees a veteran patient every day. Being able to identify and support veteran patients is crucial to ensuring best outcomes.

In our recorded webinar '[Veteran Health in Primary Care](#)', Dr Andy Purbrick offers a GP perspective and interviews a veteran to get the patient's point of view. There will be the opportunity to learn how to access more support for veterans in your care and how to become a veteran friendly practice.

Wessex LMC members can purchase the recording for £5 at <https://www.wessexlmcs.com/lunchandlearn/purchase/67>



**VIDEO RESOURCE**

Regards  
The LMC Team

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