

LMC ViewPoint

The newsletter of Leeds Local Medical Committee Limited

January 2015

GENERAL PRACTICE – rising to the challenge of a changing NHS
Leeds LMC Conference 2015 - Tuesday 17 February 6.15pm - 9.00pm
Weetwood Hall Conference Centre and Hotel, Otley Road, Leeds, LS16 5PS

The NHS will be at the heart of political debate leading up to the election in May but the proposals in the NHS's "Five Year Forward View" could radically change the way organisations within the NHS and social care work together long in to the future.

Leeds LMC is holding a conference to enable all GPs and practice managers to discuss the implications for general practice, and enable us to shape the future agenda. Simon Stevens, Chief Executive of NHS England, will now be addressing the conference through a video link and Ros Roughton, the National Director of Commissioning Development, will be attending to help lead the discussions that follow. They will outline the models of care described in the Forward View and enable a discussion about the implications on how NHS and care services in Leeds might change in the future. We have also invited leaders of the Leeds CCGs, Leeds City Council, Leeds Community Healthcare, Leeds Teaching Hospital Trust and Leeds & York Partnership Foundation Trust to give their responses and take part in the debate.

The event will take place on Tuesday 17 February at 7.00pm - 9.00pm at Weetwood Hall Conference Centre and Hotel, Otley Road, Leeds, with registration and buffet from 6.15pm.

Leeds LMC is pleased to extend the invitation to all GPs and practice managers working within the 3 Leeds CCGs localities. We hope that all practices will be represented at this important event that could radically shape our future.

Please be aware that due to capacity at the venue places are limited and bookings will be taken on a first-come first-served basis. **We have already received a large number of requests to attend so if you would like to reserve a place, please do so as soon as possible via:** mail@leedslmc.org. Alternatively if you require any further information, please contact Leeds LMC on 0113 295 1460.

OUT OF AREA REGISTRATION SCHEME

From 5 January, the new Patient Choice Scheme has allowed GP practices to register new patients who live outside the practice area, without any obligation to provide home visits or out of hours services when the patient is unable to attend their registered practice. The scheme also allows patients who are currently registered with the practice, but move out of the area, to re-register as an out of area patient, and with the practice not having home visiting obligations. Changes to the GMS Regulations require GP practices to determine whether it is clinically appropriate or practical to accept an application from a patient for out of area registration without the requirement to provide home visits or urgent GP services at their place of residence. NHS England is responsible for procuring urgent GP services and home visiting should the patient need to be seen in their area of residence.

The GPC has a number of concerns about how the scheme will operate and has issued guidance that all practices should read before deciding whether to register patients of area. The guidance is available on the BMA website. <http://bma.org.uk/practical-support-at-work/gp-practices/service-provision/out-of-area-registered-patients>

Leeds LMC has been in urgent discussions with the area team for confirmation of what arrangements have been made to provide home visiting or other services, if patients are too ill to travel to the practice. Whilst we are aware that the area team is looking at various options, there appear to be no safe and comprehensive arrangements in place to date for patients registering in this way in West Yorkshire and therefore we would advise practices that it is not appropriate to register patients under this scheme at present.

Leeds LMC will continue to press this matter with the area team and update practices in due course.

REQUESTS FOR GP SUPPORT LETTERS FOR HOUSING NEEDS ASSESSMENTS

Leeds LMC has met with representatives from the Housing Office at Leeds City Council. The key discussion topic was the value of letters from GPs to help the local authority determine whether a housing applicant/patient should be awarded some form of priority status for re-housing. The assessment/decision making responsibility sits with the local authority and it should have regard for information supplied by other parties that is relevant to the assessment.

It was agreed there was limited value in continuing the practice of asking GPs to write letters setting out why a housing applicant/patient should be awarded priority for re-housing, not least because of the time implication for practices. A more useful approach would be, when appropriate, for housing staff to receive a factual summary statement of a patient's medical history. They can then apply this to a person's housing situation which they will already be familiar with. If practices wished to they could print a summary and give this directly to the patient. The Housing Office stated there was no need for practices to post/send information direct to them.

The Housing Office was also keen to help GPs and medical staff be able to respond to patients who have a specific housing need, such as those who are homeless or who would benefit from potentially large scale adaptations. If a practice wants to have key contact details of housing staff who can be passed details of patients who it is believed have a housing need they should contact Rob McCartney, Head of Housing Support, Housing Leeds – Strategic Housing, 01132243480 or 0785403737, who will be able to help.

NHS FRIENDS AND FAMILY TEST

GP practices are reminded that, from the end of January 2015, each practice is required to submit monthly reports, via the CQRS, to NHS England. Every practice should have received an invitation to submit FFT data through CQRS.

The deadline for the first data submission, which will be for data collected in January, is **17 February**.

Practices should submit your data even if they have low numbers of responses. Once they have submitted data, there will not be an opportunity to correct it for that month. The monthly data will be published in due course on NHS England's website and on NHS Choices.

Guidance on how to submit FFT data was published in November, and can be found on the NHS England website here: www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/fft-gp-data-sub.pdf.

For anyone needing support or help in implementation of the FFT, there are contact details in the guidance, or they can e-mail: england.friendsandfamilytest@nhs.net.

NHS England guidance that set out how GP practices should implement FFT was published in July 2014. The approach has been to make the FFT flexible and create as little burden on practices and patients as possible. The guidance can be found here: www.nhsemployers.org/FFT. The website also includes links to resources and support to help you implement the FFT. This includes

materials to help raise patient awareness of their opportunity to give feedback and help improve their healthcare services.

GENDER DYSPHORIA

Following lengthy discussions, it was agreed that LTHT and LYPFT should continue to initiate treatment for gender dysphoria patients and continue to be involved long term in the care and treatment of these patients. This would give GPs more confidence when taking share care responsibilities for the prescribing for gender dysphoria patients as per the AL2 guidelines.

LYPFT already initiate and stabilise adults within their service and was in agreement with the Leeds Area Prescribing Committee (LAPC) group's decision.

£1 BILLION FUNDING FOR GP PREMISES

NHS England has announced the bidding process for the first tranche of the £1 billion additional funding for GP premises. A total of £250 million will be available in the first year. The GPC understands that of this 75% will be dispersed via improvement grants that practices can apply for in order to upgrade their existing premises. NHS England has indicated it will prioritise projects which enhance access to general practice (including increased appointment and patient contact time) and/or reduce emergency attendance or admission to hospital of over-75s.

In their applications, practices will need to demonstrate how the funding will deliver these objectives. All applications must meet the criteria for improvement grant funding as laid out in the 2013 Premises Cost Directions. To assist practices in accessing the additional funding, GPC will shortly be producing guidance on the application process and this will be circulated when available.

The use of the remaining three years of funding remains under discussion and GPC will seek to ensure that it is utilised in manner that provides the maximum value and support for practices.

PAYMENT OF NHS PENSION SCHEME CONTRIBUTION

Employers who do not pay NHS Pension contributions on time, may be charged interest at a rate of 4.7% pa and an administration charge of £75.00. Please see the employer newsletter for further details and a recommended processing schedule for the remainder of 2014/15.

[http://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/Documents/Pensions/TN03 - 2014 - Employer Newsletter\(2\).pdf](http://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/Documents/Pensions/TN03_-_2014_-_Employer_Newsletter(2).pdf)

If you have any enquiries please email nhsbsa.pensionsfinance@nhs.net in the first instance.

NHSMail SMS & FAX EXPIRY

As you will be aware a decision has been made to discontinue this valuable service. The GPC IT Committee are trying to resolve this on a practical level and are in discussions with NHS England regarding what else can be put in place. Arrangements are in place until September and we will keep practices update about any national agreement.

LEEDS LMC 2015 ELECTION TIME-TABLE

It is that time of year, for the election process to start for GPs to represent their colleagues and locality on the committee of the LMC from April 2015. We would welcome nominations from GPs who work within Leeds North, Leeds South & East and Leeds West CCGs areas to be sent into the LMC office. If you are interested in the work of the committee and would like an informal chat, please contact the LMC office for further details: mail@leedslmc.org 0113 2951460

Monday, 19 January 2015

Locality elections called

Friday, 30 January 2015

Deadline for receipt of locality nominations at the LMC office

Tuesday, 3 February 2015

Locality voting papers issued

Friday, 13 February 2015

Deadline for receipt of locality votes at the LMC office

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| Tuesday, 17 February 2015 | Locality results announced and City-wide elections called |
| Friday, 6 March 2015 | Deadline for receipt of City-wide nominations at the LMC office |
| Tuesday, 10 March 2015 | City-wide voting papers issued |
| Friday, 20 March 2015 | Deadline for receipt of City-wide votes at the LMC office |
| Friday, 27 March 2015 | Full election results circulated to all practices |

NEWSLETTER FOR SESSIONAL GPs

The third monthly e-newsletter for sessional GPs was recently distributed. It focusses on co-commissioning and aims to encourage sessional GPs to get involved in their LMC.

The newsletter is available here <http://bma-mail.org.uk/t/JVX-34W3R-5E2WPBWGC6/cr.aspx>

GP RETAINER SCHEME - YORKSHIRE AND THE HUMBER

Dr Louise Gazeley, GP Tutor at the Y&H Deanery, is keen to raise awareness of the GP Retainer Scheme – Yorkshire and the Humber. The benefits for both GPs on the scheme and their employing practices are set out in the flyer attached to this edition of Viewpoint. For more information about the scheme, please contact Dr Gazeley at: louise.gazeley@yh.hee.nhs.uk

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