

LMC ViewPoint

The newsletter of Leeds Local Medical Committee Limited

February/March 2015

GENERAL PRACTICE – rising to the challenges of a changing NHS

On 17th February a large number of GPs and practice managers from across the city attended the Leeds LMC 2015 conference at Weetwood Hall. The aim was to give Leeds GPs and practice managers an opportunity to consider the implications of the Five Year Forward View (FYFV) and to enable a full debate on how to shape the future agenda.

Simon Stevens, Chief Executive of NHS England, addressed the conference through a video link. He noted the huge pressures which were affecting primary care and acknowledged in particular that the increase in the number of GPs had failed to keep pace with the growth in other specialties over recent years.

Ros Roughton, Director of Commissioning at NHS England, opened the discussions with a presentation describing the new deal for primary care with its commitment to invest and upgrade the infrastructure and initiate measures to expand the GP workforce. Ros then outlined the new models of care described in the FYFV, focusing particularly on the multispecialty community providers (MCPs) and integrated primary and acute care systems (PACs). MCPs could develop in localities around a practice or groups of GPs and combine with other skills such as hospital consultants, nurses and community health workers to provide a wide range of services delivering integrated out-of-hospital care. PACs would be ‘vertically’ integrated organisations combining general practice and hospital services, which in some circumstances could lead to hospitals opening their own GP surgeries with registered lists.

A panel of guests representing the Leeds CCGs, the public health department of the local authority, LCH and LTHT each gave their response to the NHS England presentations and also took part in a lively question and answer session with the GPs and practice managers in the audience. The huge financial challenges for the NHS in the coming years were noted by several speakers and both Dr Bryan Gill on behalf of LTHT and Thea Stein on behalf of LCH emphasised their organisations’ commitment to work more closely with primary care in the future.

At the end of the evening the LMC conducted an informal straw poll to gauge opinion on the best way forward. It was interesting to note that by a ratio of more than 2:1 of the GPs and practice managers attending the Conference favoured the MCP model based around a partnership between organisations in the 13 neighbourhood teams in Leeds, which forms the basis of the Leeds “vanguard” bid which is currently being considered, as opposed to a GP network/federation model.

Leeds LMC would like to take this opportunity to thank all the speakers who took part in the Conference. Ros Roughton has agreed that her presentation may be shared and it is attached to this edition of Viewpoint.

THE BMA’S ‘NO MORE GAMES’ CAMPAIGN

The BMA has launched its ‘No More Games’ campaign calling on all political parties to stop playing games with the NHS, focusing on three areas:

- No More Games with the public’s health;
- No More Games with NHS funding; and
- No More Games with who is providing healthcare.

The NHS is one of the UK’s towering achievements and for too long it has been used to play political games. The BMA believes this must end now and is calling for an open and honest public

debate about the future of the NHS. The campaign demonstrates how strongly BMA members feel about what is happening to the NHS.

In the run-up to the general election and at a critical juncture for the health service, the BMA is calling for all members and doctors to help get the message heard, by adding their voices and saying No More Games with the NHS. The launch of the campaign has received extensive news coverage and there has been widespread billboard advertising, including a number in and around Leeds. A programme of further activity is planned over the coming months. We urge GPs to get involved and add their voices to the campaign. Full details of how to get involved and campaign materials to download are available on the BMA website:

<http://bma.org.uk/working-for-change/nhs-campaign-2015>

PUBLICATION OF NHS PAYMENTS TO GENERAL PRACTICE AND PUBLICATION OF GP EARNINGS

The Health and Social Care Information Centre has issued two reports this week. The final seniority factors for 2011/12 for England and Wales have been published, with the figures of £92,034 for England and £84,199 for Wales. Also published is *“GP Earnings by Deprivation Score England 2011-12 and 2012-13”*.

Both publications and their annexes can be found on the Technical Steering Committee page at <http://www.hscic.gov.uk/workforce/gpfinance>

Publication of NHS Payments to General Practice

On 12 February 2015 the Health and Social Care Information Centre (HSCIC) published NHS payments to individual providers of general practice services (including practices, walk-in centres and health centres) in England for 2013/14. This will start an annual publication process. Practices do not have to do anything in relation to this publication as data is taken from the HSCIC GP payments system. The report breaks down payments by category including Global Sum, MPIG, QOF, enhanced services etc. GPs should use their Area Team contact for any queries related to the published figures.

Publication of mean GP net earnings

From April 2015 it will be a contractual requirement for practices to publish on their practice websites by 31 March 2016 the mean net earnings of the partners, salaried GPs and any locum who has worked in the practice for over six months.

- This includes income from NHS England, CCGs and local authorities for the provision of GP services that relate to the contract or which have been nationally determined.
- All earnings to be reported are pre-tax, National Insurance and employee pension contributions.
- The figures are net of practice expenses incurred.
- Income and costs related to premises will not be included in this figure.

Alongside the mean figure, practices will be required to publish the number of full and part time GPs in the practice. The information must be published on practice websites before the end of the financial year following the financial year to which that information relates. Practices must also make available the information in hard copy on request – recognising that not all patients will be able to access the website.

NHS England and the BMA's GP committee will publish guidance for GPs and their accountants on how mean net earnings should be calculated. *Practices, or their accountants, will have to generate the report themselves.* NHS England has acknowledged that it can be difficult to disaggregate income and expenditure lines precisely and will recommend that practices should work within the reporting guidelines as far as is reasonably practicable. Earnings for General Dental Practitioners will be published to the same timetable.

CHANGES TO THE OVERSEAS VISITORS HOSPITAL CHARGING REGULATIONS

Latest guidance from the Department of Health

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/403251/equality-analysis-charges-ovs-visitors.pdf

GPC QUALITY FIRST GUIDANCE

The BMA GP committee has recently published a document “Quality first: managing workload to deliver safe patient care” which is available on the BMA website at:

<http://bma.org.uk/practical-support-at-work/gp-practices/quality-first#>

The document provides guidance to practices to manage workload at a time of unprecedented workload pressures, so that practices are able to ensure their focus is on fulfilling their contractual and professional duty to deliver quality and safe primary medical care services to patients. We hope practices will find this a helpful resource at this difficult time.

NEW CQC GUIDANCE

New guidance on CQC inspections has been published by GPC and is on the BMA website at:

<http://bma.org.uk/practical-support-at-work/gp-practices/service-provision/care-quality-commission/cqc-inspection>

This is a practical guide aimed at GP practices on how to prepare for a CQC inspection. It includes helpful tools including a check list, a presentation brief, key questions an inspector may ask and general hints and tips.

GP NETWORKS – Legal models guidance

The GPC has produced updated guidance on GP networks. The guidance provides information about the different structures that can be used by GP networks, including an overview of the pros and cons of each structure. The guidance may be downloaded via the following link:

<http://bma.org.uk/practical-support-at-work/gp-practices/gp-networks>.

The GPC is in the process of putting together a step-by-step guide for practices considering forming a network and it hopes to launch this very soon.

POTENTIALLY AVOIDABLE APPOINTMENTS

The Primary Care Foundation has been commissioned by NHS England to look at ways of reducing GP practice workload. They are carrying out an audit of avoidable GP appointments, as well as a survey on reducing bureaucracy.

They need a better response rate from practices and we encourage you to carry out this short audit, since the data will provide much needed information in objectifying the scale of inappropriate appointment demands on practices. For more information on the audit tool and to access a paper or spreadsheet version, please see: <http://www.primarycarefoundation.co.uk/audit-tool.html>.

Completion of the tool could be included within personal development plans.

LOCAL CARE DIRECT – OOH sessions available

At a recent meeting with the LMC, Local Care Direct (LCD) highlighted the problems they are experiencing in filling GP and nurse shifts to cover out of hours sessions in Leeds and across West Yorkshire. If you would like to be involved with this work or want more information, please contact the rota team at LCD at: rota@lcdwestyorks.nhs.uk. Further information is included in the flyer attached to this edition of Viewpoint.

SESSIONAL GPs NEWSLETTER

The monthly e-newsletter for sessional GPs has been published. It focuses on the findings from the recent appraisal and revalidation survey and is available on the BMA website at:

<http://bma-mail.org.uk/t/JVX-36LUM-5E2WPBWGC6/cr.aspx?v=0>

SUCCESSFUL CHALLENGE AGAINST THE VALUATION OF GP SURGERIES FOR BUSINESS RATES PURPOSES

Prior to the reorganisation of NHS Primary Care in 2013, a number of former Primary Care Trusts within Yorkshire and Humberside instructed a firm of property consultants and specialist rating advisers, GVA, to undertake a review of the business rates liability paid in respect of GP surgeries under the Doctors' Rent and Rates Scheme.

For the past six years, GVA has been challenging the basis on which GP surgeries are valued for business rates purposes by the Valuation Office Agency (VO) throughout England and Wales and sought to have an alternative valuation basis applied that would produce significantly reduced values. NHS England has confirmed that GVA has recently won a test case at the Lands Chamber of the Upper Tribunal which upholds this alternative basis. The VO has the opportunity to appeal to the Court of Appeal within one month of the decision.

This landmark decision will not only produce reductions in current and retrospective business rates liabilities dating back to, in some instances, 1 April 2005 but it will also secure future savings up to 31 March 2017. NHS England has noted this will realise efficiency savings which can be reinvested in front line medical services. As business rates are a pass-through cost for practices, fully reimbursed by NHS England, please be advised that NHS England will reclaim these monies. GVA has been instructed to resolve their outstanding GP surgery appeals in the Yorkshire and Humber area and ensure that rateable values are revised in line with the new basis. They will also ensure that savings are fully reconciled and refunded to NHS England.

In order to maximise the financial benefit from this decision, GVA may need to carry out a brief inspection and check the floor areas of the premises. If you are able to provide floor plans, this will significantly reduce the time required on site and minimise any inconvenience to the practice. GVA will be provided with a letter of authority from NHS England and asked to contact practice managers directly to organise a convenient time to visit the surgery.

Following the outcome of a successful business rates appeal, NHS England will be responsible for GVA's fees which have been approved via a formal tender process. Please note that due to the publication of the legal decision, it is anticipated that other firms of rating agents may target practices directly and persuade GPs to sign contracts on a 'no win, no fee' basis in order to secure business rates reductions. Some agents impose punitive abortive fees if contract terms are not adhered to. **NHS England is strongly advising that GP practices do not enter into additional contracts with other agents**, as any abortive fees will need to be met from the practice budget.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact NHS England or alternatively feel free to contact the GVA team directly who are: Claire Paraskeva, Senior Director, 0113-2808025 or Susan d'Arcy, Associate, 0113 2808085.

DWP – Gathering data from GPs

The DWP is working on a project to improve digital communications with GP practices and improve the security of patient information when communicating. The project also aims to reduce the time GPs spend completing forms for DWP. They have developed a prototype system and are now seeking GP volunteers to test the prototype. This would involve a visit from DWP to the practice and an interview lasting around an hour, with one or more GPs in the practice. The DWP will be flexible with arrangements in order to minimise disruption, and are offering reimbursement of costs incurred if required.

They are particularly seeking to visit practices in the North of England, preferably within a reasonable distance to Leeds. Visits will be undertaken in the weeks commencing 9 March, 23 March, 6 April and 20 April 2015. It is envisaged that a practice will only be visited once, unless practices wish to be more involved. If you are interested in taking part and would like to find out more, please contact Chris Beardsell at chris.beardsell@dwp.gsi.gov.uk or on 0113 232 4191.

WEST YORKSHIRE HEALTH PROTECTION UNIT

The latest edition of the West Yorkshire Health Protection Unit newsletter is available now and is attached to this copy of Viewpoint.

LEEDS OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH ADVISORY SERVICE

- A person focussed service that seeks to make positive interventions in the balance of health and work.
- Seeking to keep people in work or able to return to work with a minimum of delay.
- A source of independent advice about health related employment law.
- Provides confidential opportunities for patients to discuss their concerns about health and the workplace.
- Healthcare worker referrals particularly welcomed for a free patient independent service.
- Based at 92 North Street, Leeds, LS2 7PN. Website <http://leedsohas.org.uk> Tel: 0113 3453303 email: info@leedsohas.org.uk

GMC CONFERENCE – 16 March 2015, London

The GMC Conference is now open for registration. This is a follow-on from their event in Manchester just over a year ago. This year they will explore the theme of creating a culture of safety, openness and compassion. The Conference will be chaired by BBC Medical Correspondent Fergus Walsh and include an interactive programme of workshops, discussion and debate on this important issue. Further details and registration can be found at the link below:

<http://www.gmc-uk.org/about/26044.asp>

ASSOCIATION OF BRITISH NEUROLOGISTS: GP training session in Harrogate

The Association of British Neurologists is running a GP teaching day, 'Need to Know Neurology' at the Harrogate International Centre on 19th May 2015. It has been approved by the RCGP and will be running for the third year. The update is designed to cover key topics in neurology for GPs and any physician seeing patients with neurological disorders. For further details or registration, see: <http://www.theabn.org/>

FREEDOM FROM TORTURE (FfT) – seeking volunteer doctors

Freedom from Torture (FfT) is a national human rights charity offering care and rehabilitation to survivors of torture. (It is perhaps better known under the old name of the Medical Foundation for the Care of Victims of Torture.) The North West centre in Manchester is seeking to recruit volunteer doctors to join the medical team who write medico-legal reports on people who have experienced torture who are living in the North West and Yorkshire and Humber. A two-day induction training will be offered in Manchester on 3rd and 4th of June 2015 as well as ongoing CPD and support. There will be a follow up half day in Manchester in the morning of 18th June 2015. The minimum volunteer hours are four hours per week at the centre with additional reading/write up time.

If you are interested in finding out more information, please visit the website at www.freedomfromtorture.org. Alternatively Dr Jim Newmark is a GP who has worked for FfT for about eight years and he is available for informal advice, if you wish to contact him about this rewarding work at jim.newmark@bradford.nhs.uk.

COMINGS AND GOINGS

A warm welcome to.....

*Lisa Smedley who joined Ashfield and the Grange Medical Centres as practice manager January 2015
Collette Ross who is standing in as practice manager at Moorcroft surgery, Alwoodley, until 15 October
covering maternity leave*

*Dr Jorge Alegria Valencia who is joining Moorcroft surgery as a new GP partner on 2nd March
Dr Kate Matheson who joined Moorcroft surgery in August 2014 as a salaried GP*

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