

LMC ViewPoint

The newsletter of Leeds Local Medical Committee Limited

May 2016

ANNUAL LMC CONFERENCE 2016

The annual Local Medical Committee conference met in London on 19th and 20th May and was attended by LMCs from across the UK. Dr Chaand Nagpaul, chair of the BMA's GP committee, spoke of the issues surrounding workforce, workload and funding which has led to the current crisis that is impacting us all.

Whilst the recently published General Practice Forward View commits to an additional investment of £2.4bn recurrent funding over the next 4 years, the Conference was clear that urgent action is needed for the funding and various work streams to be implemented more quickly to help resolve the current recruitment crisis and ease the day-to-day workload pressures of general practice. Leeds LMC will be working closely with CCGs in Leeds to ensure the promised funding does materialise as quickly and effectively as possible.

The conference format was very different to previous years with a move away from a large number of short debates to a focus on longer themed debates. Voting pads enabled a voting system with graded options to gauge the overall mood instead of the previous binary agree/disagree option. Through this method support was given to the GPC's recently produced *Urgent Prescription for General Practice* statement. <https://www.bma.org.uk/collective-voice/influence/key-negotiations/training-and-workforce/urgent-prescription-for-general-practice>

An important debate focused on the GP Forward View. The Conference resolved, by an 80-20 majority, that the GPFV was an inadequate response to the GPC's own *Urgent Prescription* statement, and stated that unless the government agrees to accept the *Urgent Prescription* within 3 months that the BMA should ballot the profession on their willingness to sign undated resignations and/or to take industrial action. It also asked GPC to produce a report to practices on what industrial action could be taken that didn't breach their contracts. This clearly has major implications and the LMC will keep you updated. If you want to share your own thoughts, or those of your practice, on this proposal we would be interested to hear from you.

Another motion suggesting the capping of GP locum rates was defeated. It was positive to see a united profession standing together. Recognising the health devolution across the UK, there was a move to establish a GPC England and there will also be a change to the conference itself after 2017, with a move to two single day conferences in the future, giving greater opportunity to respond to the rapidly changing medico-political agenda.

You can see the webcast of the conference and full details of Dr Nagpaul's speech at <https://www.bma.org.uk/lmcconference>

A full list of the conference resolutions will be available shortly on the BMA website.

*Leeds LMC delegates taking part in the conference
(front row from left to right):*

*Dr Raj Sathiyaseelan - LMC Medical Secretary
Dr Jonathan Adams - LMC Chair
Dr Gwyn Elias - City wide GP committee member,
Dr Annette Bearpark - LMC Treasurer
Dr Nicola Hambridge - LMC Vice Chair*



QUALITY FIRST INITIATIVE: Delivering safe patient care

The BMA have recently launched 'Welcome to Quality first', an interactive web portal providing practical support to help general practice manage daily work and examples of different ways of working under pressure and at scale. On these pages there is guidance, resources, case studies and more to support day to day working. <https://www.bma.org.uk/qualityfirst>

RELEASING CAPACITY IN GENERAL PRACTICE

The GPC and NHS England recently jointly hosted a series of events focused on 'Releasing Capacity in General Practice'. A website has now been created with some of the resources produced, with ideas that describe top 10 high impact actions that every practice could adapt with the potential of releasing GP time.

<https://www.networks.nhs.uk/nhs-networks/releasing-capacity-in-general-practice/messageboard>

There is also a list of case studies where these high impact actions have benefitted practices, including some in Leeds.

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/ourwork/qual-clin-lead/pressure-in-gp/case-studies/>

PRESCRIPTIONS (FP 10s)

Legal advice has been recently sought relating to whether GPs can issue a private prescription at the same time as providing an FP10 NHS prescription, in circumstances where this is a cheaper option for the patient than paying the NHS prescription charge. The legal advice received is clear that in cases of treatment under the primary care contract, GPs may not issue private prescriptions alongside and as an alternative to FP10s. In any case where a GP is obliged to issue an FP10 the concurrent issue of a private prescription will be a breach of obligation. Where a GP is obliged or entitled to issue an FP10 the concurrent issue of a private prescription will be conduct calculated to deprive the NHS of a small amount of money and will on that account also be wrongful. The advice is, therefore, that GPs do not issue private prescriptions under these circumstances.

NHS PROPERTY SERVICES TEMPLATE LEASE LAUNCHED

For over a year GPC have been negotiating with NHS Property Services to improve conditions for GPs occupying NHSPS-owned premises. These negotiations have come to an end and they have now agreed a template lease. The full template lease, the guidance and other resources are available on the BMA webpage (<http://www.bma.org.uk/support-at-work/gp-practices/premises/gp-premises-leases>).

This template will, following local agreement between each practice and NHS Property Services on any specific premises or personal issues and/or requirements that are unique to them, form the basis upon which a formal and final lease agreement can be agreed.

GPC have secured a number of agreements within and out with the lease that should benefit practices, for example:

- a clause allowing the tenant to break the lease if notice has been served on their core contract (by the NHS or by the tenant)
- a mechanism built into the lease which ensures that reviewed/revised rents match what a practice was entitled to in terms of reimbursement
- service charges must be reasonably and properly incurred and a dispute resolution provision (which involves independent surveyors) is included if the charges are deemed unreasonable
- agreement with NHS England to provide transitional funding (for up to two years) for practices who have historically been supported in connection with their service charge payments
- very favourable assignment clauses which enable a practice to freely assign the lease to different partners or NHS allowed entities
- NHS England will cover SDLT (stamp duty land tax) and legal costs (up to a set level) where practices enter into a lease within 18 months of this announcement.

There are a few things to watch out for/remember:

- NHS PS have indicated that they will seek to start discussions with any practice who is in occupation of one of their premises on an unwritten basis or uncertain basis. This will start with written communication and the provision of a set of heads of terms which reflect the points agreed in the template.
- Certain concessions, such as the payment of SDLT and legal costs, are open for an 18 month grace period which will end mid-October 2017.
- All rents (including shared area rents) need the prior approval of NHS England before the lease is entered into.
- NHS PS are seeking to move to a position of full recovery service charges and although certain comfort provisions have, as mentioned above, been agreed there is the possibility for service charges to increase notwithstanding the efficiencies which NHS PS are seeking to drive through. Practices need to have visibility of what their exposure could be and agree limits and/or additional funding if these are deemed unreasonable.
- NHS PS is keen to make efficiencies through economies of scale, therefore they will be appointing a facilities management provider who they hope practices will use. The use of such providers is not compulsory albeit there is a reasonable endeavours requirement to enter into negotiations over a separate FM contract that will facilitate the same.
- As part of the negotiations over the ability to break the lease where core contracts end (to mitigate the impact of a 'last man standing' situation occurring) the lease has been negotiated outside of statutory protection which would ordinarily give a practice a statutory right to renew at the end of a lease term. Whether this is appropriate for each practice is dependent on their circumstances but we have sought to mitigate this issue by agreeing that the lease term can be up to 30 years and that it is capable of being contractually renewed.
- Practices should still negotiate the specifics of the template lease and should ensure you seek legal advice before signing.

For any queries related to the new template lease, please email info.gpc@bma.org.uk

If you are being contacted by NHS PS in connection with the creation of a new lease and are looking for sector-specific legal support, BMA Law's commercial property specialist lawyers can help. They can be contacted by email to property@bmalaw.co.uk or by telephone on 020 7383 6119 for more information.

CHANGE TO CONTRACT MANAGEMENT FOR LARC

The following information has been forwarded by Sharon Foster, Sexual Health Lead at the Office of the Director of Public Health in Leeds:

From 1st April 2017, Leeds Community Healthcare Trust (LCH) will take on the sub-contracting responsibilities for GP Long Acting Reversible Contraception (LARC) contracts and the Enhanced Sexual Health Pharmacy Scheme. LCH is the lead organisation, alongside Yorkshire Mesmac and The Leeds Teaching Hospitals Trust for providing integrated sexual health services across the city.

The main principles behind this change are:

- It will build up links between sexual health providers ensuring a full pathway of sexual health care which is linked to leedssexualhealth.com
- It will build links between clinical professionals and support an advice and guidance system so primary care can manage their own patients' sexual health needs where possible.
- It will put clinical skills development and the training responsibility with the specialist clinical service.
- It will provide leadership and improve the quality standards of local sexual health services and pathways (this will include PGD development, improved referral for ICUD when accessing emergency hormonal contraception and clinical guidance around management of care) to deliver.
- Contracts will transfer including the arrangements for payment.

- Any key changes to these services will be made jointly with Leeds City Council (LCC) and LCH, LCC will remain the responsible commissioner.

Over the next 12 months Leeds City Council will be reviewing the scheme and working alongside LCH, CCGs and GPs to ensure the scheme is transferred efficiently and effectively. Further information will be shared prior to implementation. All enquires to: Lizzie Dawson: Project Support Officer lizzie.dawson@leeds.gov.uk Tel. 0113 39 52877.

LEEDS LMC COMMITTEE

As you will be aware, the LMC committee member representatives are a combination of locality based and citywide elected GPs who work within the 3 Leeds CCGs area and can be either partners or sessional GPs.

The LMC represents practices in a variety of matters and regularly meets with local and regional NHS bodies and advisory groups, for example, NHS England, Leeds CCGs, LYPFT, LCH, Local Area Prescribing Committee and GP provider group. Topics vary and we can provide advice for a practice/GP in crisis or on day to day practice operational issues. The LMC office is regularly contacted by practices and GPs requiring advice, support or to raise a particular concern. With this in mind, we would like to develop stronger links between the committee member representatives and practices. Your representatives are:

North CCG - Dr Annette Bearpark, Dr Raj Sathiyaseelan, Dr Richard Vautrey

South and East CCG - Dr Helen Alpin, Dr Khalid Muneer

West CCG - Dr Nicola Hambridge, Dr Amanda Robinson, Dr Farakh Sadiq

City wide GP members - Dr Jonathan Adams, Dr Gwyn Elias, Dr Julianne Lyons, Dr Simon Ottman, Dr Paul Robinson, Dr Sarah McSorley

If you would like to speak to any representative, please liaise with the LMC office in the first instance on 0113 295 1460 or email mail@leedslmc.org who will be able to pass on direct contact details. Please note Dr Raj Sathiyaseelan, LMC Medical Secretary, is based at the Leeds office on a Thursday and can be contacted directly.

If you are interested in knowing more about the work of the LMC and/or would like to join the committee please contact the LMC office for an informal chat. We look forward to hearing from you if you feel we could help.

GP TRAINEES/FIRST 5 SURVEY ON FUTURE CAREER OPTIONS

The BMA would like to invite you to take part in some focus groups specifically for GP trainees and GPs within five years of qualification. It will involve a discussion of the attractiveness of future GP career paths. Against a backdrop of changes affecting general practice, such as the number of GP partners, new ways of practices working together and involvement of GPs in commissioning, they would like to ask new and trainee GPs how they see their future in general practice.

Please take the time to complete this short survey <https://www.demographix.com/surveys/6VQM-4EGE/BHKTBYPD/>

Although it is not possible to conduct events throughout the whole UK, they are offering some choice of location. Your information will be used for the purposes of organising where and when focus groups can take place. The BMA will pay reasonable travel expenses. Many thanks

NHS PHARMFAX

The latest newsletter from Pharmfax can be accessed here:

<http://mixdmessaging.mixed.co.uk/t/ViewEmail/r/799F5395B20C63112540EF23F30FEDED/D5F795B2A509C302F351F20C80B74D5E>

RCGP CERTIFICATE IN THE MANAGEMENT OF ALCOHOL PROBLEMS IN PRIMARY CARE LEVEL 1

Would you like to be equipped with the knowledge and skills to deal with patients with alcohol related problems? The Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP) offers an e-module followed by a face-to-face training day in **London or Leeds**, delivered by lead professionals in the field who can help you with the tools to identify alcohol problems and treatment options to better manage your patients. If you would like to attend please click on the hyper link below to register yourself onto the course or for more information e-mail: alcohol@rcgp.org.uk

The cost of the course is £260.00. If you would like to attend please click on the hyper link below.

London 16/06/16 <http://www.rcgp.org.uk/learning/substance-misuse-and-associated-health-courses/alcohol-certificate-national-day-16-06-2016.aspx>

Leeds 24/11/16 <http://www.rcgp.org.uk/learning/substance-misuse-and-associated-health-courses/alcohol-certificate-national-day-24-11-2016.aspx>

Please contact the RCGP if you have any queries or would like to see a brief overview or more detailed information on how to access the eLearning:

Robel Eyob, Programme Coordinator, RCGP, tel: 020 3188 7650, alcohol@rcgp.org.uk.

COMINGS AND GOINGS

A warm welcome to.....

*Dr Carmichael joined Priory View Medical Centre as a Partner in January
Dr Kapugama joins Priory View Medical Centre as a Salaried GP in June
Dr Geraldine Acton, who joined Hillfoot surgery as a new partner Dec 2015
Dr Katie Setchell, who joined Hillfoot surgery as a salaried GP January 2016
Julie Martin who has been promoted to Practice Manager at Manston Surgery
Dr Kate Payne who has joined Crossley Street Surgery
Practice Nurse, Louise Ogden who has joined Armley Medical Practice*

Good bye and best wishes to...

*Dr Short who is retiring from Priory View Medical Centre after 20 years, colleagues wish him well
Dr Muzmil Ali who left Conway medical centre on the 1st April 2016
Liz Holmes who retires from the Practice Manager position at Manston Surgery to become part time
Assistant PM*

Practice vacancies at.....

Park Edge Practice, Leeds 14

Salaried GP / Salaried GP with a view to Partnership (4-6 sessions) - Park Edge Practice

Address: Asket Drive, Leeds, LS14 1HX

Contact: Michelle Little, Practice Manager, 0113 2954652, email: michelle.milnes@nhs.net

Closing date: 9th June 2016 / Interviews w/c: 20th June 2016

Hyde Park Surgery, Leeds 6

Maternity Cover Salaried GP (Flexible commitment – ideally 8 sessions)

- Friendly four-partner, two salaried PMS practice close to Leeds University
- Very diverse population of 10,000 patients
- Top 3 Practice in Leeds according to NHS Choices 2016
- Student Training Practice for Leeds University Medical School
- Consistently high QOF achievers
- Friendly and enthusiastic practice team

Starting date: October 2016

Salary: £75,000 pa (8 sessions)

Closing date: 30 June 2016

Informal visits to the practice prior to application are warmly encouraged.

Please contact: Linda Quashie, Practice Manager, Hyde Park Surgery, Woodsley Road, Leeds LS6 1SG (preferably by email)

Tel: 0113-200-1091, email: linda.quashie@nhs.net, www.hydeparksurgery.co.uk

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