

10 July 2017

Dear colleague

As was highlighted by Chaand Nagpaul in his speech to the Conference of LMCs in May, general practice in England is under unprecedented pressure, with soaring numbers of practices reporting themselves as vulnerable and close to closure. Our 2016 survey of all GPs in England told us that the majority of GPs have an unsustainable workload, most surgeries find it increasingly difficult to recruit staff, and that salaried and locum GPs are put off becoming a partners because of this workload. It is absolutely clear that the current pressures mean that general practice is at breaking point and that the significant support and investment for which the BMA has been pushing must be provided without delay.

The General Practice Forward View, published in April 2016, sets out NHS England's strategy to support general practice over the next five years. While it includes proposals aimed at helping practices to become more resilient and sustainable, grassroot GPs and LMCs are clear that delivery has been inconsistent across the country, with many practices not seeing any tangible improvements.

As you will be aware, the Conference of LMCs passed the following motion:

That conference believes that the GP Forward View is failing to deliver the resources necessary to sustain general practice and demands that GPC ballot GPs as to whether they would be prepared to collectively close their lists in response to this crisis.

As a result, GPC England has been asked to ballot practices as to whether GPs in England are prepared to collectively close their practice lists. Such action would constitute industrial action, and with significant implications on GPs as independent contractors. It is therefore important for you and your practice colleagues to read the accompanying explanatory document carefully before responding to our ballot.

GPC England needs a clear understanding of the views of all GP practices on this issue, and I would therefore urge you to ensure that your practice takes part in the ballot by Thursday 10 August 2017, following the steps outlined in the enclosed letter from ERS. If you have any questions, please contact info.gpc@bma.org.uk.

With best wishes



Dr Richard Vautrey
GPC England acting chair