

LMC EXPRESS

Monthly Bulletin Issue 6: 1-30 June 2021

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Full LMC Meeting

The Full LMC met on 10th June and discussed the K&M ADHD specification. Anxieties were expressed around safety issues, the lack of adequate monitoring of patients, medico legal responsibilities and if the tariff actually covered the costs of delivering the service. Practices are reminded that signing up to this specification is voluntary.

The LMC are delighted to confirm that Dr Jack Jacobs has been appointed as Kent Local Medical Committee Medical Director, and will be joining the team on the 1st of September. Dr Jacobs will be working for the LMC on Wednesdays and Thursdays.

The Chair reported that following the [NHSE letter of the 13th of May 2021](#) regarding the restoration of general practice, the LMC wrote to all practices expressing disappointment at the content and tone of the publication. The LMC also wrote a joint letter with the CCG to practices reiterating ongoing support and appreciation for the fantastic effort general practice has made and continues to make over the course of the pandemic.

Invicta Health Learning team presented their Annual Report for 2020/21, which was very well received. The team were thanked for all of their efforts to continue to deliver a comprehensive training programme for all practices within Kent & Medway.

Mike Gilbert, Executive Director of Corporate Affairs Kent & Medway CCG, delivered a presentation on the development of an ICS in Kent & Medway. Key priority areas have been identified, and there is significant work being undertaken to enable ICS shadow status from January 2022, commencing in full in April 2022. Some of the issues raised were around equity across the patch, the implementation of data sharing, and the expectation that there will be four clinical and professional forums at ICP level. It has been agreed that Primary Care Commissioning will be carried out at an ICS level and associated funding will be protected. The LMC are currently part of the ICS Executive and ICS Partnership Board.

Sessional GP Sub-Committee Meeting

The Sessional GPs discussed [Lantum staff bank](#), which is now live, and they are providing training. The CCG has covered the cost of creating the bank and is funding all practices in Kent & Medway to use the service for a limited period. Thereafter practices will pay a 1% fee for any bookings made. Initially the service is for GPs, but will expand to incorporate Practice Nurses, ANPs ACPs, Phlebotomists, Paramedics and HCAs. All practices are encouraged to sign up.

GP Staff Training Oversight Board Update

The GP Staff Training Oversight Board met on 17th June. Invicta Health Learning team presented their Annual Report. The past year has seen much of the training provided as e-learning but there are plans to bring back more face-to-face courses from September, COVID allowing. Feedback has shown that there is a preference for face-to-face for certain courses, but there are also some that work well as e-learning (which also means less time away from the practice) and so there is likely to be a mixture of delivery type going forward. E-learning has also seen an improvement in attendance rates. PCN staff, including those in ARRS roles are also now able to access the service. ECG training has been added to the core offer, now that it is part of PCQS. Practice Management qualification courses have been well received and a new Introduction to Practice Management course will take place for the first time in September.



The Invicta Health Learning team are to be congratulated on achieving the prestigious Skills for Health Quality Mark in recognition of their provision of healthcare training.

EKHUFT/CCG/LMC Interface Meeting

In June we continued with our series of quarterly meetings with the CCG and EKHUFT to discuss interface issues.

Dr Mike Beresford gave a very interesting presentation on the various developments on the IT front over the coming year. The Sunrise system now enables staff to order tests and review the results. The Emergency Department went live with electronic records in December 2020, and this will be going live across the Trust over the month of July. EKHUFT also anticipates integrating Electronic Discharge Notices and Electronic Prescribing with Sunrise by the end of the current year.

Kent Local Medical Committee

8 Roebuck Business Park, Ashford Road, Harrietsham, Kent ME17 1AB

Tel: 01622 851197 Email: info@kentlmc.org www.kentlmc.org



The update was met with enthusiasm by those present. EKHUFT asked that GPs continue to raise interface issues with the Trust via ekh-tr.gpinfo@nhs.net. These will be collated and monitored through these interface meetings.

Pressures in General Practice

General practice is experiencing severe pressures with rising demand, practices struggling to recruit staff, and patients having to wait longer for appointments. Alongside practices being at the forefront of the NHS's response to the COVID-19 outbreak delivering approximately 70% of all vaccinations.

Nationally practice appointments hit the highest on record and have increased by 4,352,612 (+18%) compared to March 2020 and 2,817,153 (11%) compared to March 2019.

Appointments with a GP are up +1,908,670 (15%) on March 2020 and +1,109,083 (8%) on March 2019.

Same or next day appointments are up +2,720,370 (21%) on March 2020 and +3,076,173 (25%) on March 2019.

Prescribing has increased significantly over the last year. Most notably electronic repeat dispensing increased by 25% from February 2020 to February 2021. The number of repeat prescriptions also increased by 15% over the same period.

The LMC is working urgently with the CCG to look at different ways of increasing capacity in General Practice. We will update you when we have more to share but want you to know that there is recognition in the whole system that changes are required to support you.

Thank you for working tirelessly on behalf of your patients. Please do try and look after your own wellbeing which we know is easier to say than put into practice. If you need support then please get in contact and we can advise and/or signpost you. Advice and Guidance is also available on our website: <https://www.kentlmc.org/gpandgpstaffwellbeing>

Making an Application for a Premises Improvement Grant - Do's and Don'ts (Webinar)

Join the LMC and Invicta Surveyors' Rosemary Jones for a lunchtime webinar on Making an Application for a Premises Improvement Grant – Dos and Don'ts.

CCGs have recently announced release of capital funding to carry out premises improvements, with more to follow during the year. This is a great opportunity to help with compliance matters and to ensure you receive the correct funding for them. Attending this webinar will take you through the information needed and the process involved in making a "right first time" application. Some practical examples of where things can go wrong as well as examples of successes. [Book your place here](#).



The Kent LMC Annual Conference 2021

will be held in the afternoon of 14th October
at the Ashford International Hotel, Simone Weil Avenue, Ashford TN24 8UX

Our Conference is FREE and is open to all GPs and Practice Managers across Kent & Medway. It is a chance to hear important information about the future direction of the local NHS system and how this will provide general practice with new opportunities.

Our keynote speakers include:



Dr Phil Hammond
NHS Doctor, Private Eye Journalist,
Campaigner & Comic



Dr Richard Vautrey
Chair of the BMA GPC in England and
Chair of GPC UK



Professor Chris Holland, Dean of the
Kent and Medway Medical School



Bill Millar
Director of Primary Care
NHS Kent & Medway CCG



Dr Navin Kumta
GP and Clinical Chair of
NHS Kent & Medway CCG

To book a place please click [HERE](#)

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