



**Position Statement: Care Homes LES**  
**06 August 2019**

Most of you will be aware that practices have been asked to sign a contract variation/addendum to the [care homes LES](#).

Whilst the LMC agrees with the principle of more coordinated care in care homes across the county, and recognises the aspirational nature of the document, we have several concerns about the additional ask of practices and PCNs at this time, namely:

- There is no additional funding or resource which follows this contract variation.
- Individual practices currently hold the contracts for the LES and not PCNs; this contract variation seems to conflate the two in that practices are being asked to sign a contract that the PCN will be expected to deliver.
- PCNs are in their infancy; this is an unreasonable workload ask at such an early stage. The addendum makes assumptions that each PCN is fully functioning at this time.
- Whilst the aspiration for better care may be to have comprehensive geriatric assessment for each care home resident, this is a time-consuming task requiring additional resource.
- We feel there is insufficient information for practices to enable them to make an informed decision; with lack of quality data about numbers of care homes, and indeed patients, within each PCN footprint.
- The CCG has decided to remove from the LES homes for patients with a learning disability. In our view this is a very short-sighted move and struggle to understand who has made this decision and why. Practices that currently provide this service could be financially disadvantaged.

We would support a light-touch, aspirational approach to enable PCNs to expand collaborative working for care home patients ensuring a smooth transition to the new national Enhanced Care Homes DES in 2020. This contract variation is not that light-touch approach.

We would advise that practices read the attached paperwork and appendices carefully and consider the financial and workforce implications before deciding whether they wish to sign.

From a contractual point of view, **we would like to underline that practices are under no obligation to sign the contract variation.**

**Dr Kathryn Markus**  
**Chief Executive**  
**Derby and Derbyshire Local Medical Committee**

