

# YORLMC News

## Support during COVID-19

### Message from Dr Dougy Moederle-Lumb, Chief Executive YORLMC Ltd

#### *Dear Colleagues*

We are now several weeks into the COVID-19 emergency. Colleagues across general practice, as well as the whole healthcare system, continue to go above and beyond to deliver the services needed for patients, in very difficult circumstances.

At this time of great stress and pressures, the wellbeing of ourselves and our colleagues is particularly important. As we look after others, it is important that we look after ourselves too.

With this in mind, YORLMC has developed a number of resources to support the wellbeing of General Practice colleagues:

- **Wellbeing resources** collated by YORLMC Wellbeing Lead Dr John Bibby are available on the [YORLMC website](#).
- **CPS:** YORLMC'S COVID19 Mentoring Support Programme is offering free virtual mentoring support via video calling facilities to GPs, including trainee and returning GPs, practice nurses and non clinical staff working within General Practice in the YORLMC area; please contact Simon Berriman, Executive Officer, either by email [cpsyorlmc@gmail.com](mailto:cpsyorlmc@gmail.com) or phone 01423 879922. There's more detail [here](#).
- **Pastoral support:** YORLMC has a comprehensive pastoral care team with many years' experience of defence bodies, NHSE and GMC procedures and is able to provide personal and confidential support for individual GPs in difficulty or experiencing major change. There's more information, including how to access this support, [here](#).

Please get in touch using the details above if you would like to know more about YORLMC's wellbeing work.

Whilst COVID-19 remains the focus of general practice work, this newsletter provides updates on non-COVID matters. YORLMC sends regular bulletins with COVID-19 information and guidance from YORLMC Medical Secretary and COVID-19 lead, Dr Brian McGregor which will continue to be circulated to all GPs and practices and there's more information on the YORLMC website. If there are any matters on which YORLMC can be of help, please do get in touch.

*With best wishes*  
**Dougy**



Dr Dougy Moederle-Lumb

### For practices in North Yorkshire & York and Bradford & Airedale

*June 2020*

#### *Key features in this issue*

##### **Page 2**

[Premises update](#)  
[District valuer services](#)  
[Good practice in prescribing and managing medicines and devices](#)  
[The Cameron Fund: Supporting GPs together](#)

##### **Page 3**

[PCSE escalation process](#)  
[Appointments in General Practice](#)  
[GP workforce data shows further fall in FTE GPs in England](#)  
[General Practice research](#)

##### **Page 4**

[YORLMC Buying Group](#)  
[YORLMC jobs page](#)  
[Contact details](#)

# Premises update

National discussions continue between the GPC and NHS Property Services and with CHP. There's information on the [BMA website](#) about property matters and the latest updates on discussions are below:

## Community Health Partnerships

Dr Gaurav Gupta, chair of the Premises and Practice Finance policy group, together with deputy chair Dr Ian Hume, met with the CEO and COO of CHP in March to discuss recurring issues raised by members. CHP committed to work with GPC in resolving these problems faced by their GP tenants. If your practice has experienced any issues regarding CHP, please raise this at the earliest opportunity with YORLMC.

## NHSPS and NHSE/I

In May, GPC premises policy lead, Gaurav Gupta, and deputy, Ian Hume, met for the first time with the recently appointed CEO and COO of NHS Property Services (NHSPS). Initial dialogue was constructive, and the group have resolved to meet regularly to escalate and troubleshoot operational concerns relating to COVID-19, as well as ongoing issues raised by members. The leads also met with NHSE/I for an update on the Premises Review, and to set expectations regarding engagement and consultation as more of the review workstreams get underway.

## NHSPS services charge dispute update

The BMA is supporting 5 test claimant GP practices who have received demands from NHS Property Services (NHSPS) to pay [inflated service charges](#) based on their Consolidated Charging Policy. The case is ongoing and on 4 May the BMA learned that due to COVID-19 NHSPS sought an extension until 21 May to file defences and counterclaims.

The BMA has been informed that some practices have continued to receive demands from NHSPS for the payment of disputed service charges. These demands are highly inappropriate, not only because these charges are the focus of the ongoing legal case, but because they serve to unnecessarily exacerbate the already immense pressure on practices as they work to combat COVID-19. Gaurav Gupta, GPC Premises and Practice Finance Policy Lead, has written to Martin Steele, the new CEO of NHSPS, to express these concerns and asking NHSPS to desist from sending practices further demands for disputed service charges until legal proceedings have been concluded and the current health crisis has abated. They have now agreed to restart regular engagement to address various issues faced by practices.



## District valuer services

The GPC met with NHSE/I for an update on the Premises Review, and to clarify expectations regarding engagement and consultation as more of the review workstreams get underway. NHSE/I advised that it has suspended physical inspections of Primary Care Premises by District Valuer Services (DVS) in light of COVID-19, and that valuations will now take place via desktop review.

DVS will be in touch with instructing CCG or local NHS England teams to confirm arrangements on a case by case basis.

## Good practice in prescribing and managing medicines and devices

GPs are responsible for their decisions and action when they supply and administer medicines and devices or instruct others to do so.

In situations where GPs prescribe at the recommendation of another doctor, nurse or other healthcare professional, the prescribing GP must be satisfied that the prescription is needed, appropriate for the patient and must only sign the prescription if they are satisfied that they are working within the limits of their own competence.

The GMC's guidance on safe prescribing is available [here](#)

## The Cameron Fund: Supporting GPs together

The Cameron Fund is medical benevolent charity that provides support solely to GPs in the UK. A newsletter from the Cameron Fund is available at [Appendix 1](#).

There is more about the Cameron Fund on the [YORLMC website](#).

# PCSE escalation process

Here is the updated escalation procedure agreed with NHSE for GPs and practices to use to contact PCSE and escalate unresolved matters if needed:

1. Initial queries should be directed as follows:

Raise via the online portal enquiry form - <https://pcse.england.nhs.uk/contact-us/>

2. Unresolved issues or lack of response, practices should contact PCS England engagement team via [pcse.gpengagement@nhs.net](mailto:pcse.gpengagement@nhs.net)

3. If following this, practice issues remain unresolved please contact the following NHSE Y&H contacts:

- For **BAWC** medical contracting matters contact [england.wyat-medicalcontracting@nhs.net](mailto:england.wyat-medicalcontracting@nhs.net)
- For **BAWC** payments and pensions contact Hannah Wade, Finance Manager [hannah.wade1@nhs.net](mailto:hannah.wade1@nhs.net) (*finance queries should be followed up using step 2 above a couple of times before escalating to Hannah*)
- For **NYN** medical contracting matters contact [england.primarycare@nhs.net](mailto:england.primarycare@nhs.net)
- For **NYN** payments and pensions contact [england.gpclaims@nhs.net](mailto:england.gpclaims@nhs.net)

## Appointments in General Practice

NHS Digital are now releasing data on a weekly basis showing weekly counts of appointments and the first report can be found [here](#). It is broken down by appointment status, health care professional, mode and time between booking date and appointment date at national level and a weekly sum of the total scheduled duration of appointments (in minutes) at national level.

The data has a number of significant caveats, specifically that the information does not give a complete view of GP activity so should not be used to infer a view of workload. The data presented only contains information which was captured on the GP practice systems which limits the activity reported on and does not represent all work happening within a primary care setting or assess the complexity of activity.

It should also be noted that the duration data presented in this data release is scheduled duration, which is the planned length of time an appointment should take not the actual length of time it does take. i.e. the scheduled duration could be 8 minutes for an appointment but if the actual duration may be 6 minutes. Or the scheduled duration could be 10 minutes but the actual duration is 12 minutes. This means that the data presented is not the actual amount of time practices spent on appointments but the amount of time practices planned to be spent on appointments.

GPC England is meeting NHS Digital to discuss these significant flaws in recording. However practices should be aware that this information is being recorded and published and therefore should try to ensure that all patient contacts are appropriately recorded in clinical systems.

## GP workforce data shows further fall in FTE GPs in England

The number of fully qualified full-time equivalent GPs dropped by 2.5% from March 2019 to March 2020, the latest official figures show.

The [report](#) released by NHS Digital shows there were 27,985 FTE GPs on 31 March 2020 - 712 fewer than 31 March 2019. The total number of GPs also decreased by 0.6%.

The number of FTE GP partners fell by 5.4% in the year, with the number of salaried GPs increasing by 4.5%.

Dr Krishna Kasaraneni, BMA GP committee executive team workforce lead, said: "These figures continue to show a worrying decline in the number of full-time equivalent GPs and GP partners specifically over the last year.

"In recent months, general practice has rallied around in the face of the Covid-19 pandemic, working innovatively to continue providing care to patients, and proving the true value of holistic, person-centred care delivered within communities.

"In a post-Covid world it is imperative that this work is not forgotten and that this value is truly recognised, to ensure this foundation of the NHS is given the freedom and resources it needs to provide high quality care to patients."

## General practice research

You may wish to see the [QResearch News](#) Update for Spring 2020.

This covers a wide range of activities and research projects using data uploaded from GP practices.

# YORLMC Buying Group & Member rates

Members of the LMC Buying Group can access discounts with any of the suppliers on the attached list at [Appendix 2](#).

To access these discounts, you can either login to the Buying Group website and request a quote or if you contact the supplier directly, you need to make sure you mention your practice is a member of the LMC Buying Group or state the discount code from the suppliers page of the Buying Group website.

If you were using an approved supplier before you became a Buying Group member or have been using a supplier for a long time and aren't sure whether you are receiving the correct rates, you can email the Buying Group to check: [info@lmcbuyinggroups.co.uk](mailto:info@lmcbuyinggroups.co.uk). For further information on LMC Buying Group member benefits or to speak to a member of the team, you can live chat via their website: <https://www.lmcbuyinggroups.co.uk/> or give them a call on: 0115 979 6910.

## YORLMC jobs page

YORLMC has a job page on our website at <https://www.yorlmcld.co.uk/jobs>. Please visit this page to view current vacancies and details of GPs seeking work.

NHS Practices in the YORLMC area seeking to fill GP and staff vacancies and GPs seeking work in the YORLMC area can place adverts on the job page free of charge. To place an advert please contact the Corporate Affairs Team via [info@yorlmcld.co.uk](mailto:info@yorlmcld.co.uk)

YOR Local Medical Committee Limited (YORLMC Ltd)  
Registered office:  
First Floor, 87-89 Leeds Road, Harrogate, North Yorkshire, HG2 8BE  
t. 01423 879922 f. 01423 870013  
e. [info@yorlmcld.co.uk](mailto:info@yorlmcld.co.uk)  
w. [www.yorlmcld.co.uk](http://www.yorlmcld.co.uk)  
Registered as a Company limited by  
Guarantee. Registered in England No. 6349731.

#### YORLMC Ltd Disclaimer

YORLMC Limited does not provide legal or financial advice and thereby excludes all liability howsoever arising in circumstances where any individual, person or entity has suffered any loss or damage arising from the use of information provided by YORLMC Limited in circumstances where professional legal or financial advice ought reasonably to have been obtained. YORLMC Limited provides representation, guidance and support to GPs and practices in the North Yorkshire and Bradford and Airedale areas. YORLMC Limited strongly advises individuals or practices to obtain independent legal/financial advice. Articles and adverts included in this newsletter must not be assumed to be endorsed by YORLMC Ltd.



## YORLMC's Corporate Affairs Team

**Dr Douglas Moederle-Lumb**  
*Chief Executive*  
[info@yorlmcld.co.uk](mailto:info@yorlmcld.co.uk)

**Angela Foulston**  
*Associate Chief Executive*  
[angela.foulston@yorlmcld.co.uk](mailto:angela.foulston@yorlmcld.co.uk)

**Belinda Smith**  
*Director of Finance/  
Company Secretary*  
[belinda.smith@yorlmcld.co.uk](mailto:belinda.smith@yorlmcld.co.uk)

**Dr Brian McGregor**  
*Medical Secretary*  
[info@yorlmcld.co.uk](mailto:info@yorlmcld.co.uk)

**Stacey Fielding**  
*Director of Liaison*  
[stacey.fielding@yorlmcld.co.uk](mailto:stacey.fielding@yorlmcld.co.uk)

**Simon Berriman**  
*Executive Officer -  
North Yorkshire & York and  
Bradford & Airedale*  
[simon.berriman@yorlmcld.co.uk](mailto:simon.berriman@yorlmcld.co.uk)

**Ariana Frankis**  
*Executive Officer -  
North Yorkshire & York*  
[ariana.frankis@yorlmcld.co.uk](mailto:ariana.frankis@yorlmcld.co.uk)

**Sandra Warriner**  
*Executive Officer -  
North Yorkshire & York*  
[sandra.warriner@yorlmcld.co.uk](mailto:sandra.warriner@yorlmcld.co.uk)

**Kate Mackenzie**  
*Executive Officer -  
Bradford & Airedale*  
[kate.mackenzie@yorlmcld.co.uk](mailto:kate.mackenzie@yorlmcld.co.uk)

**Nicola Brownlow**  
*Business Support Officer*  
[Nicola.brownlow@yorlmcld.co.uk](mailto:Nicola.brownlow@yorlmcld.co.uk)