



## Weekly operational update for local general practice

Thursday, 16 January, 2020

Welcome to Insight, Devon Local Medical Committee's operational update for GPs and practice managers.

### **Opportunity for PPGs to lobby nationally over draft PCN service specifications**

Local Patient Participation Groups (PPGs) are encouraged to lobby the Government and NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSE&I) about the draft Primary Care Network (PCN) service specifications.

A letter has been drafted on behalf of PPGs in Devon and Kernow – with thanks to Dr Alan Holman, a GP Partner at Roborough Surgery, in Plymouth – which you may wish to share with your PPG, if you have one, to comment on before it is sent to the Government and NHSE&I.

Comments should be fed back to the LMC to capture via [bob.fancy@devonlmc.org](mailto:bob.fancy@devonlmc.org) by noon on Tuesday, 21 January. The draft letter and supporting information is available to download [here](#).

### **Workload unmanageable for many PCNs – BMA survey**

A British Medical Association (BMA) survey of clinical directors highlights the importance of adequate funding and a properly resourced workforce for Primary Care Networks (PCNs) to succeed. PCNs could make a positive difference if given resources, time and practical support – but workload has proven unmanageable for a significant proportion. However, doctors leaders said it is likely that early optimism has been 'seriously impacted' by concerns around the draft PCN service specifications. Read more [here](#).

### **Expressions of Interest for Capital Funding (Minor Improvement Grants and GP IT)**

To facilitate the continued improvement of primary care, the region is inviting expressions of interest for 2020/21 and 2021/22 Premises Improvement Grants, GPIT, Digital Technology and Equipping Capital. Funding can be requested for the use of Minor Improvement Grants and/or GP IT.

If you would like to apply, please submit the expression of interest form (stating clearly if your request(s) are relating to Minor Improvement or GP IT) to [devon.primarycare@nhs.net](mailto:devon.primarycare@nhs.net) by Friday, 24 January, 2020. The form and supporting material is available on our new intranet site in the Short-Term Reference Library.

In line with the guidance provided, clinical commissioning groups (CCGs) will then submit the supported Expressions of Interest to NHS England (NHSE) for approval.

### **Get your views on bureaucracy in local general practice heard nationally**

Claire Oatway, Chief Operating Officer at Beacon Medical Group, has set up a short and simple survey to capture examples of bureaucracy and red tape that hinder work in local general practice – and is requesting feedback from Devon's GP surgeries. The key findings will be shared with influential figures nationally like Jo Churchill, the Minister for Prevention, Public Health, and Primary Care. The survey is live and you can complete it [here](#).

It runs until Friday, 24 January.

### **Election of CCG Locality Clinic Representatives**

The LMC is running an election process on behalf of Devon Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) for CCG Locality Clinic Representatives in the North, East and West. GPs and Practice Managers were sent information about the process last Friday – if you haven't received the material contact [richard.turner@devonlmc.org](mailto:richard.turner@devonlmc.org) for a copy.

### **Open Exeter update**

GP practices are reminded that Primary Care Support England (PCSE) is only replacing the payment and pension element of Open Exeter as part of the decommissioning process – it won't be reproducing all the data currently



## Weekly operational update for local general practice

on ENHAIS. Practices will still be able to view old data on Open Exeter but not new data once it has been decommissioned.

### **Best practice for remote consulting and prescribing**

The General Medical Council (GMC) has published [10 high level principles](#) describing good practice expected of healthcare professionals when consulting or prescribing remotely from the patient.

### **Guidance on changes in the law for personal health budgets**

A change in the law means two new groups have a legal right to a personal health budget. This includes people eligible for after-care services under section 117 of the Mental Health Act and people eligible for an NHS wheelchair (who have a right to a personal wheelchair budget). NHS England has issued new [guidance](#).