

To: All Colleagues in Surrey and Sussex LMCs

31st January 2019

Dear Colleagues

GP Contract Agreement April 2019

As presumably most colleagues will by now be aware, the BMA General Practitioners Committee and NHS England have reached a landmark five-year GP Contract Agreement from April 2019.

Whilst considerable information is already available, more details will be announced over the next few months. However, the headlines include: -

- Agreement to introduce a state-backed indemnity scheme from April 2019, covering clinical negligence risks for GPs and practice staff working under an NHS Contract
- The creation of DES to support the formation of Primary Care Networks, through which practices can work together and be funded to expand their local workforce.
- Increased digital services for patients including expanding on-line appointment booking and giving direct digital record access.
- Changes to QOF, including the development of two quality-improvement domains, retirement of less evidence-based indicators, and better exception-reporting arrangements.

As this is a five-year deal, funding has been agreed until 2023/4 in relation to the core contract, to support an expansion of network employed workforce, and IT developments.

The Agreement is closely linked to the NHS Long Term Plan and translates many of the primary-care related commitments in that Plan into a contractual framework for General Practitioners.

Over the coming month the LMC Office will provide detailed updates on the main areas of the new agreement; there will also be five LMC, and a GPC, Roadshows to discuss details of the new contract agreement. The LMC is also planning a workshop for identified or prospective Network Clinical Leads. I hope forthcoming LMC updates and the Roadshows will answer many questions, but if colleagues have any current queries, please send these to the LMC via our website (www.sslmcs.co.uk) or to individual LMC Officers. In addition, GP colleagues are welcome to contact their local GPC Representatives for more information: -

Local Medical Committees for
Croydon, Kingston & Richmond, Surrey,
East Sussex and West Sussex

The White House **T:** 01372 389270
18 Church Road **F:** 01372 389271
Leatherhead
Surrey KT22 8BB www.sslmcs.co.uk

East and West Sussex: Dr Russell Brown (drbrown1970@gmail.com)

Kingston and Richmond: Dr Richard Van Mellaerts (richard.vanmellaerts@nhs.net)

Croydon and Surrey: Dr Julius Parker (Julius.Parker@sslmcs.co.uk)

More details are available via the BMA website at: -

<https://www.bma.org.uk/collective-voice/committees/general-practitioners-committee/gpc-england/gp-contract-agreement-england>

It is clear how difficult the past few years have been for all GP and practice colleagues; the aim of this contract agreement is to:

- increase the resources going to practices
- foster closer working between practices, but in a small scale, locally managed way which gives practice colleagues direct initiative and leadership, and to
- expand the support directly available to General Practitioners to provide and signpost care for their patients.

If colleagues want sustainable, rewarding, empowerment for their practices then this five-year agreement should provide the foundations for that future

With best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'JP', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Dr Julius Parker
Chief Executive