



18<sup>th</sup> March 2024

Dear Colleague

Welcome to this week's edition of the LMC Express. The local updates for this week include:

- GP Contract 2024/25 Imposition
- Managing outbreaks specification
- National flu immunisation programme 2024/25
- Rebuild General Practice
- Modern General Practice Access Model – funding support for practices
- Highlights of the LMC Interface meeting with our adult mental health provider, KMPT, which took place last week
- Message from the K&M Primary Care Training Hub: Are you returning to work in primary care in Kent & Medway after maternity/parental leave or recently restarted work?
- Manage Your Mind Workshops Final Virtual Session - 2nd April 2024
- General Practice Alert State (GPAS) National Reporting Dashboard
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## GP Contract 2024/25 Imposition

Kent LMC, along with over 900 colleagues, attended the national GPC webinar regarding the GP Contract 24/25 imposition from NHSE. Further local webinars are due to take place and for colleagues who missed it the future BMA GPC Webinar dates are below:

**National Catch-Up:** Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March

12.30 - 14.00 [Microsoft Teams link](#)

19.30 - 21.00 [Microsoft Teams link](#)

It was helpful to understand from the GPC their position, when embarking on negotiations on your behalf, and the response from NHSE.

GPC England feel this contract will not help general practice or patients. They advised us over 1300 practices have been lost since September 2015. Inflation outstrips any uplift and it is a real terms cut that threatens more practice closures, more headlines around redundancies and GP unemployment, more patients losing 'their GP' and 'their practice'.

The GPC want to hear what you think, this webinar is open to ALL GPs delivering the contract, including registrars and locums and Practice Managers.

The referendum is open to all BMA Members and is impartial and objective. This is a national contract, so must be led by our national trade union, the BMA. **The referendum closes on the 27<sup>th</sup> March and is followed by a GPC meeting on the 28<sup>th</sup> March.**

The referendum question is:

**Do you accept the 2024/25 GMS contract for General Practice from Government and NHS England? Answer - Yes or No**

We were also advised that this referendum is an opportunity to have your say as a profession, as General Practitioners, with every single GP, whether partner, salaried, locum or a GP registrar, eligible to vote. There is a 2 minute YouTube video here, where Dr Katie Bramall-Stainer, the Chair of GPC England, sets out the process, <https://youtu.be/5hdRdEO1yza>.

**Kent LMC has set up a Broadcast only WhatsApp Group to enable us to pass on important information from the BMA regarding the 2024-25 GP Contract Referendum. This group is open to all GPs, including registrars. If you would like to join the group please complete the simple form via the link below at your earliest convenience.**

<https://forms.office.com/e/uqawQEkcV3>

## Managing outbreaks specification

The ICB has issued an updated 'Managing Outbreaks in Care Homes' specification. We are pleased that the ICB has responded to the LMCs request to increase the tariff from the 2018 level by uplifting it by 37%. Practices who may wish to offer the service can find further information in the [documentation](#).

## National flu immunisation programme 2024/25

Guidance for the 2024/25 flu vaccination programme, outlining eligible cohorts, campaign start dates and recommended vaccine has been published in a letter from NHS England that can be found at [this link](#)

## Rebuild General Practice

Kent LMC would like to share the Rebuild General Practice patient engagement toolkit: [Patient engagement toolkit \(rebuildgp.co.uk\)](#)

This contains ideas, tools and support to engage with patients and unite them with GPs to defend the profession. It includes flyers, animations for practice screens and templates for WhatsApp groups, patient information leaflets and local and social media. There is also an invitation and presentation to directly engage with your PPG.

## Modern General Practice Access Model – funding support for practices

Practices are invited to apply for funding to support them to move to a Modern General Practice Access Model (MGPAM), as defined by NHS England. The ICB is keen that this funding is not lost to general practice and therefore, has updated the scheme to allow practices to sign up to receive £7,000 of funding in 23/24 and a further £6,500 in 24/25.

We have been reassured by the ICB that the scheme is intended to be light touch and to support practices to make changes, or to fund changes that may have already been made to their model of access.

The [memorandum of understanding](#) (MOU) and the [guide](#) outline how to make an application and the MOU needs to be signed and returned to [Kmicb.gphealthoutcomes@nhs.net](mailto:Kmicb.gphealthoutcomes@nhs.net) by **Tuesday, 26 March**. Advice on completing the application or the MOU is also available to practices from the ICB primary care team.

## Highlights of the LMC Interface meeting with our adult mental health provider, KMPT, which took place last week

The introduction of the Community Mental Health Framework – a pilot has commenced in Thanet and so far there have been positive results for patients and clinical teams. 531 referrals have been received with 100 going into treatment. The referral rejections have reduced to a negligible number. ( 5 out of 531 referrals were returned to Primary care, 3 were under 18 and 2 had physical health need). KMPT are the lead provider for the service and are subcontracting

organisations to manage the care of patients who do not meet the threshold for secondary care but do have needs which cannot be met in General Practice. These services are addressing the commissioning gap which we have highlighted. Services are called 'Mental Health Together' and 'Mental Health Together Plus.' The roll out will continue across Kent and Medway over the coming months, all areas should be live by August.

KMPT have now implemented Consultant Connect across all mental health community teams in Kent and Medway. This enables Consultant psychiatrists to access help with ECG and blood test interpretation. There are now ECG machines across KMPT sites, and it is agreed that blood tests are requested by the psychiatrist with a form to enable the patient to then access phlebotomy services. KMPT are looking into issues which have been discussed including discharge advice when patients are discharged on medication and clinic letter templates and communication between teams within KMPT. KMPT and the LMC are working on a program of lunchtime educational webinars which will be coming soon.

### **Message from the K&M Primary Care Training Hub: Are you returning to work in primary care in Kent & Medway after maternity/parental leave or recently restarted work?**

The Kent & Medway Primary Care Training Hub will be running a [4-session support programme](#) starting in April 2024, with virtual and face-to-face meetings to support your return to work journey. Sessions will provide emotional support, practical tips and clinical refreshers. They are informal and baby- and breastfeeding-friendly. If you are interested or have any questions, please email [kmpcth@nhs.net](mailto:kmpcth@nhs.net), stating your name, role and PCN/location.

### **Manage Your Mind Workshops Final Virtual Session - 2nd April 2024**

For all GP Practices, including those who may wish to use this as a resource to help complete the QOF well-being module, our final webinar with Dr Farnaaz Sharief to discuss the importance of positive self-care for healthcare professionals will be held on 2nd April 2024. Key factors that contribute to wellbeing and how you can 'manage your mind' at work and at home will be covered.

After the session staff should be better able to:

- Understand why positive self-care amongst health and social professionals is important.
- Recall key factors that contribute to wellbeing.
- Grasp principles that help maintain wellbeing whilst juggling many responsibilities.
- Use practical techniques at work or at home to 'manage your mind'
- Appreciate the role of breathwork in releasing stress, improving energy and creating a subjective feeling of wellbeing.

The session will take place over lunch 1-2.30pm. Please click [HERE](#) to book a place.

### **General Practice Alert State (GPAS) National Reporting Dashboard**

The national GPAS reporting dashboard has been published and shows the pressure general practice is under. Last week Kent & Medway practices reported GPAS Amber 2/Opel 3. Thank you to practices that continue to provide input into GPAS on a weekly basis. The information you provide is invaluable in evidencing the pressure general practice is operating under. The GPAS information from the national dashboard will be used by the BMA and feed into contract negotiations.

Submissions continue to be completely anonymised. The LMC is not able to identify individual practices from the submissions. The only data that is shared with either the ICB or other stakeholders is aggregated at HCP or Kent and Medway level. The more practices that take part in GPAS, the more robust the evidence will be. **Collecting this data is assisting the LMC in illustrating operational pressures in general practice. The report takes less than 5 minutes to complete each week.**

We would encourage every practice to submit a report on weekly basis and to also provide comments and feedback. Furthermore, if you are experiencing acute operational pressures please do get in touch with either the LMC or the ICB to seek support

The LMC is able to assist with getting practices started on reporting. Information can be found on our website at [Kent LMC - General Practice Alert State \(GPAS\)](#) or please email the LMC at [info@kentlmc.org](mailto:info@kentlmc.org) **If your GPAS contact person changes or leaves the practice, please update us with the new contact person at [info@kentlmc.org](mailto:info@kentlmc.org)**

To view the latest GPAS SitRep please click [here](#)

The LMC is currently working the ICB to explore the support that can be offered to practices when declaring any state beyond Green. For example this could be additional resources, changes to operations with a practice or the wider healthcare system, assistance with communications. We would welcome any ideas from practices as to the help or support that could be offered to a practice when challenged by increased operational pressures and so declaring, a state of amber, red or black: please send them to the LMC at [info@kentlmc.org](mailto:info@kentlmc.org)

## Useful Links

[Subscribe to Kent & Medway ICB General Practice Updates](#)  
[Previous issues of the General Practice Update available online](#)  
[Subscribe to NHSE Primary Care Bulletin](#)  
[Email Newsletters from CQC](#)  
[Kent and Medway Primary Care Training Hub](#)  
[Sign up to Primary Care News](#)

## Upcoming LMC Interface Meetings

The following meetings are taking place over the next few weeks. If you have any issues that you would like us to raise please email [info@kentlmc.org](mailto:info@kentlmc.org) with the title of the meeting and details of your request.

**EKHUFT/ICB/LMC Interface Mtg – Thursday 21 March**  
**Manage Your Mind - Virtual Session – Tuesday 2 April**  
**Kent & Medway GP Board - In Person – Wednesday 17 April**  
**Full LMC Committee – Thursday 18 April**  
**LMC Sessional GP Sub-Committee – Thursday 18 April**

Kind regards  
Kent Local Medical Committee