



7th March 2022

Dear Colleague

Welcome to this week's edition of our LMC Express.

This week's local updates include:

- GP Staff Training Team (GPSTT) Update
- KMPT and NELFT Interface Meetings
- K&M GP Board Summary/PCN Incorporation Workshop
- Health or adult social care? Where to refer guidance for GPs
- Staff Development and Placement Opportunities – a Message on behalf of the Training Hubs
- Fuel Support Scheme
- Information Law Webinar with DR Solicitors - Wednesday 20th April 2022 at 12.30pm
- At Scale working: Practice mergers, super-partnerships, federations and PCNs Webinar: 28th May 2022 at 12.30pm
- Ongoing provision of PPE
- NHS Seasonal Flu Vaccine Programme - Advice and Reimbursement Guidance for the 2022/23 Season

GP Staff Training Team (GPSTT) Update

The LMC GPSTT Oversight Board met last week and heard from the team at Invicta Health Learning that the number of face-to-face courses now taking place has continued to increase. However, there is recognition that in many cases virtual training is still more convenient for attendees and usually more cost effective. Therefore, we will continue to offer both types of training as appropriate. Most PCN staff are now able to access the service and there are currently 119 PCN staff that are active users of the Learning Pool. The LMC GPSTT are working closely with the Training Hubs to try to ensure that together we are making use of every available training resource to benefit General Practice across Kent & Medway.

KMPT and NELFT Interface Meetings

The LMC held their regular liaison with KMPT and NELFT. Medication prescription requests were discussed and the LMC were assured that GPs should not be being asked to initiate prescriptions of specialist medication, if this does occur KMPT would like to know so they can investigate, GPs can contact KMPT via the email address kmpt.clinicalqueries@nhs.net (this is not for referrals). KMPT and the LMC agreed to work together to produce a webinar to update GPs of the changes within the KMPT teams and familiarise GPs with their Community Mental Health Teams, we will keep you posted.

The issue of blood sample and ECG requests was discussed, KMPT may ask practices to undertake ECG/phlebotomy and if the practice agrees it was clarified that the result is not the responsibility of the GP, KMPT will provide an email for the result to be sent back to in the case of ECG for interpretation by their requesting clinician, and for blood tests KMPT provide the request form and so the result automatically goes back to the requesting clinician. Practices can

claim for ECG/phlebotomy under PCQS. KMPT have made progress with the issue of referral rejection having undertaken a pilot in West Kent. They have provided an update which is below.

Routine Referrals into KMPT

The Community Mental Health Framework, which seeks to integrate care for patients with mental health problems across the county is beginning to be implemented. As part of this work KMPT Community Mental Health Teams (CMHT) have piloted a joint screening process with Live Well Kent for all referrals coming into the KMPT CMHT, where it is agreed which agency is best placed to care for the patient. Patients are then referred directly to the appropriate service, their care is not delayed and referrals are not passed back to the GP. This has worked extremely well and there has been very positive patient feedback on this work. This process is only for patients who are referred to the KMPT CMHT.

An information sharing protocol is in place to ensure robust Information Governance. We would therefore be most grateful if, when you need to refer a patient to KMPT CMHTs you are able to inform the patient that this will be a multi- agency screening and their care may be provided by a partner organisation if it is felt they would better suit the patient needs.

NELFT updated the LMC on their current position. There remains a backlog of children waiting for diagnostic assessments for ADHD and Autism. NELFT are working to employ additional staff to undertake the assessments to reduce waiting times, there continues to be challenges in finding workforce. The Eating Disorder Service has seen a 110% increase in referrals during COVID, NELFT have employed a consultant paediatrician onto the team to assist in the care of this group of patients, specifically with interpretation of investigations. The issue of blood requests was discussed with NELFT, as these services are not provided to children in general practice NELFT will be exploring alternative solutions.

K&M GP Board Summary/PCN Incorporation Workshop

The Workshop was led by accountancy expert Andrew Leal, MacIntyre Hudson(MHA) and legal expert Nils Christian, DR solicitors. This presentation demonstrated the potential benefits of setting up a limited company to sit alongside a PCN. It is a model that has been adopted by around 40 PCNs so far across England. The proposal is that a limited company is setup and owned by the practices within a PCN. The limited company then has several advantages over a flat or lead practice PCN model for employing ARRS which include:

1. A single organisation to employ ARRS staff simplifying structure. On the ground ARRS can still work alongside practice staff.
2. ARRS / other shared staff employed through this company can enable a cost sharing agreement to be set up which significantly reduces VAT risk.
3. Governance – Limited companies come with a set governance structure improving financial transparency, enabling a consistent HR / holiday policy for all ARRS.
4. Reduced liabilities - Ltd companies have limited liability so any potential costs from staff disputes etc would not call on owners own capital. This is different to traditional GP partnerships and therefore other PCN models where the liability is un-ending and can call on partners own assets. It was pointed out that there is a real risk in the fact that current PCN models are actually partnerships at will with unlimited liability.
5. Other contractual work outside of the PCN DES could be run through the company, expanding GPs opportunities to provide more services for their communities.
6. NHS pension scheme can be made available to ARRS staff employed through these organisations.

The risks appear to be limited it was acknowledged there is a financial cost to setting up a company and ongoing accountancy. There is also a need for GP partners to spend time setting things up.

For further information please contact Andrew Leal, MacIntyre Hudson(MHA)
andrew.leal@mhlp.co.uk or Nils Christian, DR solicitors. N.Christiansen@drsolicitors.com

Health or adult social care? Where to refer guidance for GPs

Kent LMC met with the KCC safeguarding/social team, regarding the new referral forms they have rolled out. They explained the difficulties of being able to follow up patients without the form which ensures they have contact details and consent to contact the patient. However they did agree that referrals should not be rejected if the information was incomplete. They also agreed that a GP dictating their concerns, and then admin pasting into form, ticking any boxes they are able to, was acceptable to them.

KCC supplied contact details if practices have any concerns regarding referral, see below.

Team	Email addresses with effect 28/2	Towns covered
Ashford Canterbury Coastal	SafeguardingadultsAC@kent.gov.uk	Ashford Canterbury Herne Bay and Whitstable
Thanet South Kent Coast	SafeguardingadultsTSKC@kent.gov.uk	Thanet Dover Deal Shepway and Hythe
North Kent	SafeguardingadultsNK@kent.gov.uk	Dartford Gravesend Swanley and Swale
West Kent	SafeguardingadultsWK@kent.gov.uk	Maidstone Sevenoaks Tunbridge Wells and Tonbridge
Sensory Services	Sensoryservices@kent.gov.uk	Countywide

Please let Kent LMC know if you are having any referrals rejected at info@kentlmc.org so we can pursue these on your behalf.

Staff Development and Placement Opportunities – a Message on behalf of the Training Hubs

On behalf of everyone working in the Training Hubs we wanted to take this opportunity to thank you for your commitment to developing both your existing staff, and for providing placement opportunities for our future workforce at a time when you are facing unprecedented challenges and demands.

We truly value the time and effort that Practices like yours invest into developing learners and want to ensure that we can support you as much as possible. To that end if there is anything that we can do to help or any queries you may have about learners in your practice please contact us where we will be only too happy to help. We can be contacted by email or phone using the details below:

Locality Training Hub Contact emails

East Kent eastkent.traininghub@nhs.net

North Kent northkent.traininghub@nhs.net

West Kent info@westkenteducationnetwork.co.uk

Training Hub websites

West Kent Locality kmccg.wkenttraininghub@nhs.net

East Kent Locality <https://www.eastkenttraininghub.org/>
North Kent Locality <https://www.nktraininghub.co.uk/>

Fuel Support Scheme

The Coronavirus pandemic has caused significant financial implications to families and individuals across the country. Financial recovery from the pandemic will take some time. The funding from the Household Support Grant will support families and individuals with vouchers that can be used with pre-payment meters to help towards their fuel bills, and essential items throughout the coming winter months. The pandemic has resulted in many people spending more time at home due to their situation, whether continuing to work from home or losing their job during the pandemic, resulting in an increase of fuel costs.

The purpose of the grant is to support families and individuals with a fuel voucher towards their energy bill to alleviate some of the financial pressure during this challenging time.

Please see attached flyer for details of eligibility criteria to be used within the Fuel Support Voucher and essential items scheme. Do share with your networks to raise awareness of the support that is available to people who may have been impacted by financial hardship during these exceptional times.

Should you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact
tracy.veasey@kent.gov.uk/hannah.chandler@kent.gov.uk

Information Law Webinar with DR Solicitors - Wednesday 20th April 2022 at 12.30pm

Just to remind you that Kent LMC, in conjunction with David Sinclair from DR Solicitors, will be hosting a webinar on Information Law. David Sinclair is a dual-qualified Information Law Solicitor and Information Security Practitioner. The webinar will include a brief update on NHS Digital's patient data extraction scheme and the Government's Data: A new direction proposals, Subject Access Requests (including when you can decline to respond, what data you have to provide, managing 'entwined data' and common pitfalls that land practices in trouble), Freedom of Information Requests from the media (including what constitutes a valid FOI request and what information LMCs, PCNs and Practices have to provide) in response to a request.

To Book a place please click [HERE](#)

At Scale working: Practice mergers, super-partnerships, federations and PCNs Webinar: 28th May 2022 at 12.30pm

We are pleased to announce Kent LMC, in conjunction with Nils Christiansen from DR Solicitors, will be hosting a webinar on Practice Mergers. Nils Christiansen is the Managing Partner and co-founder of the DR Solicitors, and is an acknowledged expert on the NHS regulations and on the commercial environment in which GP practices and other primary care providers operate. Nils has supported numerous practice mergers, GP federations and super-partnerships on their growth strategies and advised clients faced with complex regulatory problems.

The webinar will look at the different forms of scale working in primary care, consider the pros and cons of each, and explain how they can all co-exist. We will examine the different possible entities for at-scale working, including limited liability entities, explain the different models for merging practices, and the steps for a successful merger, including setting out the pitfalls and how to avoid them.

To Book a place please click [HERE](#)

Ongoing provision of PPE

A new [personal protective equipment \(PPE\) website](#) has been launched, ensuring continuity of PPE distribution to frontline health and care staff, and other eligible users. Practices can continue to access free of charge until 31 March 2023 or until infection prevention and control (IPC) guidance is withdrawn or significantly amended.

NHS seasonal flu vaccine programme – advice and reimbursement guidance for the 2022/23 season

In line with Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) and Department of Health and Social Care advice, NHS England and NHS Improvement has [published a letter](#) about reimbursable vaccines and eligible cohorts for the 2022/23 NHS Seasonal Influenza (flu) Vaccination Programme.

At Your Service: A proposal to reform general practice and enable digital healthcare at scale

Last week a document was published by the think-tank, [The Policy Exchange](#), '[A proposal to reform general practice and enable digital healthcare at scale](#)'. This is authored by a consultant oncologist with a healthy private practice and a tech start up; a student undertaking postgraduate research in history and a management consultant, less than ideally placed, one would think, to give their opinion on the destruction of the GMS contract, which they advocate by the end of the decade.

These pieces are usually just an exercise in kite-flying ideas and to stimulate debate. This one does have a foreword by our current Secretary of State for Health & Social Care, Sajid Javid, however, rather worryingly.

Kind regards
Kent Local Medical Committee