



Kent Local Medical Committee

Supporting list based personalised care, the partnership model and meaningful collaboration

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Highlights from the Full Kent Local Medical Committee Meeting April 2018

Dr Gaurav Gupta welcomed the Committee and introduced Dr Bug Price, GP Contract Holder in Herne Bay, Dr Thilla Rajasekar, GP Contract Holder in Ashford and Dr Awadh Jha, Sessional GP in Swale, who recently joined the Committee.

Dr Gupta announced Dr Penny Barley's forthcoming retirement from general practice and the LMC. Dr Barley has been an LMC representative for many years, has contributed greatly and will be sorely missed. Dr Barley said she has enjoyed being part of the LMC over the years and urged members to be tolerant of doctor colleagues as we are all in the same profession and need to support each other. The Committee responded with a round of applause.

Electronic Referral Service (eRS)

Gaurav Gupta reported that the eRS was submitted as an urgent item for discussion.

John Allingham provided a brief background to the planned implementation of eRS and to fulfil the requirement within the Standard Contract for 2018/19 for the full use of the NHS eRS for all consultant-led first outpatient appointments from the 1st October 2018.

It was reported that each Trust has agreed soft and hard paper switch off dates with their respective CCGs, with no engagement with the LMC. It was noted that following their PLT Medway CCG informed practices that the soft switch off for Medway NHS Foundation Trust is 24th April 2018, with the hard switch off on the 14th May 2018, and that this was approved by the LMC, which was not the case.

A motion was submitted for debate outlining the LMC's concerns, particularly around the lack of training, clinical responsibility, the inadequate Directory of Service with available appointment slots and the need for a backup in the event of IT failure.

Members debated the proposed motion and agreed that implementing a paper switch off and move to e-Referrals will compromise patient care.

Following suggested amendments, Members voted on the motion:

"Kent LMC will not support the switch off of paper referral systems at Kent Hospital Trusts (Medway, East Kent, Darent Valley & MTW) because we are concerned that patient care will be compromised until:-

- a) All GPs and their staff are satisfied that they have been trained to use eRS*
- b) There is a complete and adequately updated Directory of Service with available appointment slots*
- c) There is a backup system for use when there is an IT failure*
- d) Arrangements are in place to meet the needs of practices with connectivity problems and who cannot access eRS*
- e) The medico-legal aspects of this system are fully addressed by all concerned, including making arrangements for patients who are not on the spine"*

The motion was carried by an overwhelming majority, and it was agreed to share this with the Kent & Medway Trusts and CCGs and issue as a Press Release.

Kent & Medway Clinical Vision and Strategy

Gaurav Gupta welcomed Dr Fiona Armstrong, Co-Chair of STP Clinical and Professional Board and Clinical Chair of Swale CCG to the meeting.

Fiona Armstrong provided a background of the Clinical and Professional Board and delivered a presentation outlining the strategy for Kent & Medway, the approach to developing a care model and the principles for developing the future urgent and emergency care systems.

Fiona outlined the priorities going forward in five key areas that were approved by the STP Programme Board: Urgent & Emergency Care,

Children & Young People, Mental Health, Prevention and Cancer.

The Clinical and Professional Board agreed there is a need for a clinically-led overarching strategy for Kent & Medway and have set out a care model framework and approach to developing a care model. The STP has developed a care model for urgent and emergency care using the framework which involves many different services. Understanding how these services fit together and the importance of primary care input into discussions moving forward was highlighted.

The Clinical and Professional Board is also providing input into the STP priorities for 18/19. Fiona commented that she had detailed documentation to support the Clinical Strategy which she was happy to share with members.

Members discussed the different care models across the 8 CCGs, and it was felt that general practice contribution is under appreciated. Fiona commented that the STP local care model must suit the patch and urged GPs to engage with their CCGs to ensure the sustainability of primary care.

A question was raised around possible closure of any hospitals across Kent & Medway. Fiona commented that at STP level there was nothing to suggest any closures at this moment in time.

Sustainability and Transformation Partnership (STP)

Programme Board

The LMC attend the Programme Board and Local Care Implementation Board. Gaurav Gupta and Liz Mears will present a deep dive into primary care, which will help raise awareness of the current challenges and opportunities. It was noted that a primary care workforce workstream is being established. The development of the Primary Care Workstream will be key for the implementation of a coherent primary care strategy.

The LMC anticipate carrying out an audit in conjunction with CCGs and Trusts to assess time/resources spent dealing with unfunded work from hospitals/other providers.

Kent & Medway Medical School (KMMS)

Peter Nicholls, Dean of KentHealth, Kim Stillman, EKCEPN and Hazel Smith, STP Director of Partnerships joined the meeting to talk about Kent's successful bid for a medical school. Gaurav Gupta welcomed Peter, Kim and Hazel, and congratulated them on a successful Medical School bid.

Peter Nicholls presented a brief background to the submission of a bid for a Kent & Medway Medical School. It was noted that Kent and Medway are currently one of largest geographical areas without a medical school and has been identified as having some of the most deprived neighbourhoods in England.

It was reported that the Medical School will offer more portfolio activities and opportunities to students and will not only transform health outcomes but will make Kent & Medway a more attractive place to work and will help address the current workforce challenges.

Peter Nicholls provided an overview of what KMMS will look like, citing it as a Partnership between the University of Kent and Canterbury Christchurch University, based on both institutions campuses. It will initially offer places for a minimum of 100 students per year, and the structure of the curriculum will be primary care focussed for the first two years. Brighton & Sussex Medical School has been identified as a 'parent partner'.

The vision for KMMS was outlined as "a beacon for first class medical education and research, and the first choice for all those aspiring to achieve excellence in person-centred medical care in the UK", with the infrastructure in place for it to be a world class medical school.

Peter Nicholls reflected on the exciting opportunity to be part of this venture, the enthusiasm for which is echoed across the County with the belief that it will enhance health outcomes to people in Kent & Medway.

Kim Stillman presented the KMMS journey throughout the Medical School Year. It was noted that placements through the course are an integral part of the program and will be in Primary Care and Community settings for 1 day per week for the first 2 years, starting in

September 2020. Acute placements will commence in 2022.

Hazel Smith commented that the KMMS is an extremely positive opportunity for Medical Recruitment in Kent & Medway and will attract future students into medicine and re-energise the attraction of health and care careers. It was noted that clear communication material will be produced and widely disseminated in due course.

Potential work experience opportunities were discussed, and Hazel Smith commented that there will be a focus on student experience, health and wellbeing.

Peter Nicholls thanked the Committee for their time and reminded them that GPs and practices in Kent & Medway have an important role to play in offering student placements.

Concern was raised that this may only benefit local East Kent practices. Peter Nicholls explained that this is not the intention, and this is Kent & Medway wide.

It was noted that some local practices are already taking students from London Medical Schools with a different curriculum. Peter Nicholls confirmed that Kings Medical School are keen to work closely with KMMS and to share patch in a constructive way, and KMMS will identify areas of curriculum where there can be commonalities to ensure a coordinated and positive relationship.

Gaurav Gupta thanked Peter, Kim and Hazel for attending and congratulated them on their work leading to the successful bid.

West Kent Unfunded Work Update

John Allingham provided a brief background to the issues around unfunded working in West Kent and confirmed that the CCG has signed off the final specification for the Frailty and Treatment Room Care Additional Primary Care Service (APCS) and will be offering it to practices for 2018/19. The LMC see this specification as being the first step in negotiations and are keen to achieve further recognition for other activity such as ECGs, ear syringing and phlebotomy.

Winter Pressures/QOF

The LMC wrote to Glenn Douglas, STP Accountable Officer, requesting the suspension for QOF for 17/18 which was supported by many of the CCGs. After seeking advice from NHS England the STP felt unable to support our request. However, Caroline Selkirk, Managing Director of East Kent has written thanking general practice for its flexible and effective GP and primary care response shown to the winter pressure issue, offering some financial support for training and development initiatives. The LMC are seeking to clarify how this funding can be accessed and what it can be used for. Liz Mears commented that a winter pressures group has been established and the LMC will be engaging with them to ensure winter initiatives take account of primary care.

Gaurav Gupta commented that the BMA analysis shows that there are 'pressures' all the time now rather than 'winter pressures'. It was suggested consideration be given to reducing pressures that consume considerable time, eg. having an appraisal every two years rather than annually. This suggestion was noted as a potential motion for the LMC Conference.

MMR

The LMC have received a number of queries about MMR immunisation for staff with the current outbreak of measles in Kent and Medway. The LMC has been in contact with David Selling, Head of Public Health at NHS England and Dr John Rodriguez, Consultant in Public Health at NHSE, who have confirmed that staff should be sent to their own GP if there is any doubt they have had a full course or have immunity. This will be covered by the existing Enhanced Service.

GP Staff Training Team Update

Invicta Health Learning have been delivering the GP Staff training service for 9 months. The LMC office will be meeting with Invicta Health Learning monthly to ensure good governance. It was noted the team have generated an underspend, due in part to efficiency with venue costs, and are actively talking to providers and working with practices to identify courses moving forward. John Allingham encouraged practices to contact the team with any ideas or suggestions for courses.

Sessional GP & VTS Conference 24th May 2018

Members were reminded that the LMC Sessional GP & VTS Conference 'How to Live Long and Prosper in General Practice' will be held on Thursday 24th May 2018, with guest speaker Dr Zoe Norris, Sessional Chair of the GPC. It is FREE to attend and is open to all Sessional/VTS GPs across Kent & Medway. Places can be booked via the [LMC website](http://www.kentlmc.org) or by email to info@kentlmc.org - there are only a few places left!

Kent LMC Annual Conference:

1st November 2018, Ashford International Hotel

Liz Mears was delighted to announce the speakers for the Kent LMC Annual Conference this year. Professor Chris Ham, CEO of The King's Fund is the keynote speaker, and will be joined by Mr Glenn Douglas, Kent & Medway Accountable Officer, Dr Mina Gupta, Chair, Modality Partnership General Practice, Detective Superintendent Susie Harper, Kent Police, Dr James Thallon, Medical Director, NHS England (Kent & Medway) and Mr Andrew Leal, Percy Gore & Co, Chartered Accountants. Liz Mears encouraged GPs and practices to Save the Date - further information and details of how to book a place will be available on the LMC website in due course.

GPC News

Issues 6 & 7 of the GPC News are available on the [LMC website](http://www.kentlmc.org).

NHSPS

Gaurav Gupta reported that NHSPS issues are ongoing, and the BMA and LMC advice remains unchanged, that practices should not sign leases until they are happy with all their liabilities including service charges. Gaurav Gupta is on the Premises Group at the GPC and urged practices to contact him with any concerns.

Contract Changes 2018/19

Liz Mears reported that the GPC concluded negotiations and reached agreement on the changes to the [GP contract for 2018/19](#), and referred members to the letter from Dr Richard Vautrey, GPC England Chair. Liz Mears provided an overview of some of the changes, highlighting:

- a sum of £60m has been agreed to cover the average uplift in indemnity for the

last two years. This will be paid to practices in 2018/19 on a per-patient unweighted basis. Practices should ensure that an appropriate amount is passed on to salaried GPs towards their indemnity cover. Locums should ensure their charges reflect their costs

- there will be an uplift for vaccinations and immunisations that are reimbursed through the SFE
- there are changes around reimbursements for locum cover for parental and sickness cover
- the full use of the Electronic Referral Service (eRS) for all consultant-led first outpatient appointments starts from 1st October 2018.
- QOF values will be uplifted to take into account population growth.

It was noted that the Premises Cost Directions due to replace the 2013 revision are not yet available, and it is anticipated they should be released within the next 2-3 months.

Anxieties were expressed around some of the non-contractual changes. In particular members raised concerns at the potential for NHS 111 being able to access and book appointments directly via practice systems.

Gaurav Gupta encouraged members to contact the LMC office with their thoughts and views to ensure they are fed back, as they will form part of the discussions for the contract review next year.

Conference of LMCs

UK Conference, 9th March 2018 - delegates feedback

Delegates shared their experiences following the recent UK Conference. Full reports from the conference are available in the [In Touch Newsletter](#) on the LMC website.

Dr Bug Price was congratulated on his excellent speech on the soap box at conference, and on not losing enthusiasm and selling general practice as a career. Bug commented that as a first-time attendee he was impressed by the democratic process, a little surprised by some of the negativity displayed, and found it an enjoyable experience.

Kelly Brown

Senior Administrative Officer (Comms)