



9th May 2023

Dear Colleague

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

- Delivery plan for recovering access to primary care (May 2023) – NHS England
- General Practice Appointment Data for Kent and Medway – March 2023
- Have you ever thought about working for Kent Local Medical Committee?
- Message sent on behalf of NHS Obesity Programme: NHS Digital Weight Management Programme
- Message from NHS Kent & Medway: Capacity & Access Improvement Payment Plans - EXTENSION TO SUBMISSION DEADLINE
- GPAS Update - Submission to National Dashboard
- Life after CCT Pensions and Tax/Accountancy - An update from the experts for new to practice General Practitioners Wednesday 28 June 1-2pm
- New to Partnership Payment Scheme (N2PP) – deadline for applications
- Upcoming LMC Interface Meetings
-

Delivery plan for recovering access to primary care (May 2023) – NHS England

NHSE has published its plan for recovering access to primary care. NHSE sees this plan as its response to 2 issues: tackle the 8am rush and reduce the number of patients struggling to contact their practice; and provide patients with clarity about how their request will be managed. This will happen by empowering patients to manage their own care; transforming how patients contact their practice; building capacity; and cutting bureaucracy.

The plan recycles a lot of what is already known, rebranding elements of the 2023/24 imposed General Practice contract. There is an emphasis on the expanded role of pharmacy. Community pharmacy will be able to prescribe for 7 conditions including uncomplicated UTIs in women and sore throats. ARRS roles will continue to increase capacity and there is further assurance that the funding for these roles will continue beyond 2024.

ICBs are required to progress work on improving the interface between Primary and Secondary care, there have been contractual requirements around the interface for many years now in the NHS Standard Contract. The ICB are asked to focus on four areas – onward referrals, completing episodes of care (fit notes issued for duration of illness and discharge letters, NHS trusts developing call/recall systems for follow up investigations and appointments and to develop clear points of contact for practices to get an agile response to queries.

The future of QOF and IIF will be reviewed over the Summer.

Major issues of lack of GPs and estates are touched on briefly. With regards to workforce we will have to wait for the NHS Long Term Workforce plan, to be released shortly.

To read NHSE's plan [click here](#).

General Practice Appointment Data for Kent and Medway - March 2023

Appointment data for March again demonstrated the tremendous hard work and dedication to patient care and access of general practice teams in Kent and Medway. We have produced [a poster with some key messages](#) which you can promote via your websites and/or notice boards.

Have you ever thought about working for Kent Local Medical Committee?

If the answer is a resounding YES, or you are intrigued to find out more, then click the link below to our vacancy on our website.

Representing General Practice, negotiating and supporting GP's, PM's and the practice team is what we do. It is a rewarding job, and an enjoyable and supportive environment with like-minded people to work with.

[Kent LMC Executive Officer](#)

Please contact the office on 01622 851197 for a confidential chat if you would prefer in the first instance.

Message sent on behalf of NHS Obesity Programme: NHS Digital Weight Management Programme

Please find attached a joint briefing from Professor Jonathan Valabhji, National Clinical Director for Diabetes and Obesity, NHS England and Mr. Matthew Fagg, Director of Prevention, NHS England, intended for Local Medical Committees and Primary Care Commissioners which provides background and early outcomes from the NHS Digital Weight Management Programme, and its potential for impacting positively on addressing health inequalities.

We would welcome further sharing of the document with General Practitioners and other interested parties to support wider dissemination of the current Programme status and promote wider national adoption of the NHS Digital Weight Management Programme, providing tier 2 weight management support to those eligible to take up the offer.

If you would like any further details on the Programme please don't hesitate to contact us at: england.wmp-prevention@nhs.net

Message from NHS Kent & Medway: Capacity & Access Improvement Payment Plans - EXTENSION TO SUBMISSION DEADLINE

NHS Kent & Medway have received notification that NHSE have extended the deadline for agreement of the Capacity & Access Improvement Payment PCN Plans until 30 June. We will therefore change the **PCN plan submission deadline to Friday 23 June** which will allow the ICB to review and formally agree plans.

This does give your PCNs more time to consider the data, review and discuss opportunities for improvement with member practices, and take into consideration the NHS recovery plan. For those of you who have already submitted plans, we will contact you directly, but you are free to develop these plans further and resubmit should you wish to.

With the extended deadline allowing more time to develop plans, we will look to arrange some regular online drop-in sessions to discuss the guidance, data and answer any queries you may have.

GPAS Update - Submission to National Dashboard

Thank you to all practices that continue to provide a weekly a submission. The information you provide is invaluable in evidencing the pressure general practice is operating under.

The Kent GPAS report is now included in a National GPAS reporting dashboard and we will need to submit our Opel Status (GPAS state) into the national dashboard by 2pm every Thursday so we would ask that all practices complete their GPAS submission by noon on Thursday of each week.

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 provide comments and feedback.

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

Furthermore, if you are experiencing acute operational pressures please do get in touch.

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

Life after CCT Pensions and Tax/Accountancy - An update from the experts for new to practice General Practitioners Wednesday 28 June 1-2pm

Please join the Kent LMC, Andrew Leal, a partner at MacIntyre Hudson, and Paul Gordon, Head of Medical Specialist Wealth Planning at Atomos, for a lunchtime virtual update on Wednesday 28 June 1-2pm, to inform you about the NHS pension scheme and tax / accountancy working independently as a GP

Andrew will look at the tax issues relating to working as either a salaried GP, a locum or a partner and whether a limited company may be beneficial. He will also look at what GPs need to do via PCSE online to ensure superannuation contributions are correctly collected and some of the key issues to consider if contemplation becoming a partner in a practice.

Paul will look to run through the current NHS Pension arrangements and implications as you move from a trainee into general practice. He will cover general financial planning including the likes of mortgages, protection and even wills, and can be quizzed on all areas of finances.

This event will be held virtually via Microsoft Teams, please book your place [here](#)

New to Partnership Payment Scheme (N2PP) – deadline for applications

The N2PP scheme was introduced in July 2020 for an anticipated two years. In December 2021, NHS England extended the scheme into 2023.

GPs and other clinical staff intending to apply for the scheme need to have entered into an equity partnership by 31 March 2023 to be able to **submit an application by 30 June 2023**. Find out more about the application process [online](#) or you can email england.newtopartnershipenquiries@nhs.net.

There are currently a few spaces left on the programme, Pathway to Partnership to support you on Leadership, Strategy and Operations with implementation in your practice.

Full information can be found here - <https://qualitasconsortium.uk/pathway-to-partnership/>

Upcoming LMC Interface Meetings

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

Maidstone & Tunbridge Wells Trust (MTW) Interface Mtg – Tuesday 16 May

East Kent GP Board – Thursday 8 June

EKHUFT/ICB/LMC Interface Mtg – Thursday 8 June

West Kent Primary Care Transformation Board – Tuesday 20 June

Full LMC Committee – Thursday 22 June

Sessional GP Sub-Committee – Thursday 22 June

Kind regards

Kent Local Medical Committee