



22nd May 2023

Dear Colleague

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

- Conference of Representatives of UK Local Medical Committees - 18/19th May 2023
- MTW/LMC Interface Meeting
- DVH/LMC Interface Meeting
- PCQS
- GP Staff Training Team Oversight Board
- 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
- NHSE South East GPN Celebration Event
- Upcoming LMC Interface Meetings

Conference of Representatives of UK Local Medical Committees - 18/19th May 2023

The LMC representatives and officers attended the UK LMC Conference last week. It was heartening to see the voice of GP trainees well represented. Day one of Conference opened with Chris Morris providing some comedy taking note of the politicised environment we find ourselves in.

A major issue debated was around the role of specialist doctors in General Practice. It was interesting to hear from the Chair of the BMA SASG Committee and to understand the view of our colleagues who currently provide a lot of care in Secondary care settings. The call for a focus on the ability for all doctors to retrain as GPs if they wish to, while maintaining the professional qualification of a General Practitioner we currently have was heard loud and clear. Concerns were raised consistently about the level of supervision required to see undifferentiated illness in general practice. GPs are highly trained and have unique skills to see the whole patient. Others were concerned where these doctors would work from due to the huge pressures on space in general practices. There was support for the SAS doctors to see patients within their own specialisms in the community but not for them to simply 'transfer' into general practice.

Conference delegates supported and instructed the BMA to push for full resource restoration to make it more attractive for recruitment and retention and increased funding to improve patient care.

We heard from our Northern Ireland colleagues who still have no ministers and no government, a very different landscape and extremely challenging. They still have no indemnity solution, premises challenges and large numbers of contract hand backs.

A more detailed report of Conference will follow in next week's newsletter.

MTW/LMC Interface Meeting

We heard that MTW was close to commissioning a patient portal. Functionality could include direct referrals for certain pathways and enable patients to signal to the Trust that their condition has deteriorated.

MTW continues to work on the implementation of an Electronic Patient Record across all its departments. A new EDN process is also being rolled out and the LMC and MTW welcomes feedback from GPs on its usefulness. We also heard that Electronic Prescribing is unlikely to go live before March 2024.

DVH/LMC Interface Meeting

There was a discussion regarding the governance of and clinical input to Health Pathways work with GPs concerned about the transfer of work into primary care and its impact on access to routine general practice. DVH also briefed the group on its strategy refresh which will focus on delivering smart and effective care and meeting the financial challenge. The strategy would also focus on delivering acute services in collaboration with other providers within the community.

PCQS Meeting

The PCQS contract comes to an end March 2024 and the LMC and ICB have begun discussions regarding its future. The ICB has indicated that PCQS has brought benefits for patients and simplified the contracting process, and it is seeking to expand it over the coming years. The LMC is supportive of an expansion of PCQS but reminded ICB colleagues that any transfer of activity needs to be accompanied by commensurate resources.

The ICB will be reviewing the PSA monitoring specification. It was noted that Urology colleagues had not yet fully adopted the proforma for discharging patients for monitoring in primary care, and that the bureaucracy for practices can be streamlined further.

The LMC and ICB have begun exploring adding Osteoporosis to PCQS.

GP Staff Training Team Oversight Board Meeting

LMC Representatives met with the Invicta Staff training Team and Training Hub on 11th May 2023 for the 6 monthly oversight board meeting. The Staff Training team gave a comprehensive review of the training programme. Specifically:

- 44% increase in eLearning provision in the last year
- Continue to see significant increase in demand for BLS training. The team are exploring ways of providing the training more frequently and options for consolidated, shorter training sessions.
- Increasing provision of training to ARRS staff in PCNs. No current plans to change but will be kept under review as practice levies fund training rather than PCNs.
- The GPSTT has cleansed all waiting lists to get a truer picture of demand for courses. Practices are asked to ensure staff remove themselves from waiting lists if training no longer required.
- Invicta and the Training Hub will jointly scope a staff induction course for all new staff into practices.
- New venues for delivering courses have been identified to ensure geographical coverage of training across K&M.

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. **If your GPAS contact person changes or leaves the practice, please update us with the new contact person at info@kentlmc.org**

[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](#)

NHSE South East GPN Celebration Event

On the evening of the 18th May NHSE South East Region held a GPN event to showcase some of the amazing work that General Practice Nurses do to support our populations as highlighted in the Sonnet Report. The evening culminated in the Awards ceremony. Individuals were asked to nominate GPNs in their localities who were improving patient outcomes daily with the work they were doing.

Kent and Medway GPNs were recognised with two winners . They were:

Frances Rintoul GPN in University Medical Practice

Frances won the Working Collaboratively Award . As we know Nurses work well in teams and GPNs are no exception. NHSE SE wanted to find a team of nurses in general practice who have worked well together and with others outside their team, who have made a positive and sustainable difference to patient care by working well together. The nomination highlighted how Frances had demonstrated excellent nursing and leadership skills working across barriers in her local community in her GPN role. She had developed a transformational project for the LGBTQ+ community, as part of the NAPC CARE programme, demonstrating how small changes can lead to more transformational ways of working, leading to an improvement in patient care with positive feedback from patients and carers. Her aim was for the local LGBTQ+ community to 'feel safe with us' within her practice. She worked hard to upskill herself and her primary care colleagues as she recognised her voice was not representative of the LGBTQ+ community or their experience. She has implemented the Trans Care Toolkit for Primary Care within the practice and PCN. Frances has developed an LGBTQ+ friendly environment by networking and engaging with stakeholders within the trans and non-binary community including Porchlight, the Advisory group, her local Methodist minister, and service users. This community are now more likely to access healthcare, including relevant screening, as their experience with health care is more welcoming and positive. This innovative project has helped Frances consider her role and her responses to others, building on her passion for her GPN role. She should feel proud of her work to highlight significant health inequalities experienced by the LGBTQ+ community. She has demonstrated that NHS provisions for trans and non-binary individuals has a long way to go but continues as a GPN and role model to break down barriers working with system colleagues to share her learning wider.

Lorraine Stapely GPN in Charing

Lorraine won the Community Award Community Award which is for a GPN who have worked across barriers in the community. Lorraine worked as part of a team with other people outside of their practice on the Afghan health project. In September 2021, 150 Afghan evacuees were relocated to our local 'bridging' hotel, supposedly on a temporary basis. The project remains ongoing, with new patients still arriving. After the initial input by the whole practice team, Lorraine pursued all avenues to ensure they receive healthcare equity to our local patients. Overcoming communication challenges through the use of translators, Google translate and well-prepared leaflets, clinics ran smoothly. Lorraine targeted vaccination, smears and contraception alongside general healthcare.

Vaccination- all the refugees required a full course of the UK vaccination programme from new-borns to the elderly as none of them had any health documents. CQC recognised Lorraine's work in our 'outstanding' inspection report (December 2022): 'There was specific evidence of awareness in the practice of vaccine hesitancy within specific patient populations. The practice addressed this by offering supportive, one on one conversations between the practice nurses and parents.'

Cervical smears- are not routine in Afghanistan and so careful, culturally appropriate communication and explanation has resulted in cross-cultural change. We are proud of cervical smear data for Afghani women:

25-49: 68% uptake

50-64: 50 % uptake

Contraception- LARC was offered to all interested women

Lorraine gave up her own time providing additional clinics until her aspirations were reached. This was all alongside completing her ACP training, for which her research dissertation was "Education and Barriers for cervical cancer screening among refugee women".

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.

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