



30th May 2023

Dear Colleague

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

- IT Failure
- Kent & Medway General Practice Board 24th May 2023
- General Practice Alert State (GPAS) - Submission to National Dashboard
- Kindness into Action at Kent & Medway
- Help make a difference for doctors in hardship – join the network of RMBF volunteers
- Life after CCT Pensions and Tax/Accountancy - An update from the experts for new to practice General Practitioners Wednesday 28 June 1-2pm
- ****SAVE THE DATE**** Kent LMC Annual Conference: Innovation in Practice - 5th October 2023
- Upcoming LMC Interface Meetings

This week we have also attached the national update from the BMA, and we draw your attention to the following important announcements therein:

- Safe working and preparing for balloting on industrial action
- Workforce data
- BMA member briefing on the GP delivery plan
- Labour Party's NHS plan - Building an NHS fit for the future
- Annual flu letter
- Oliver McGowan Mandatory Training on Learning Disability and Autism
- EMIS reverses panic button decision
- OpenSAFELY

IT Failures

We are really sorry that you have had to endure the recent IT failures and for some this happened twice last week resulting in no clinical system or appointment book.

We have been making representations to the ICB since March about the failures, which are not concluded yet, and we have followed this up today with the most recent failures that have occurred over the last week.

We have asked the ICB to support practices and to understand what this actually means in general practice, including the patient safety concerns these failures create. We have asked the ICB to share their business continuity plans so that we know what support and communications we should expect and when.

We know that it has been such a difficult time for you all, and we hope that we can get some additional support. We will be back in touch asap. In the meantime we thank you very much for continuing to support your patients to the best of your abilities given such circumstances.

Kent & Medway General Practice Board 24th May 2023

At the meeting of the General Practice Board last week we discussed **shared care**, and what this actually means, as interpretations from colleagues can be mixed. By simply transferring care to General Practice without consent does not constitute Shared Care.

Dr Ash Peshen confirmed there is work looking at the Out of Hospital offer. There has been a Procurement PIN release with workshops looking at community services provision and what that could look like going forwards.

The GP Access Recovery Plan instructs ICBs to report to its Board in the Autumn on the Secondary to Primary Care inappropriate work transfers. A group with acute Medical Directors, the ICB and the LMC is being led by Dr Steve Fenlon and has made a positive start.

General Practice Alert State (GPAS) - 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](#)

Kindness into Action at Kent & Medway

We have been asked to share information on the Kindness into Action modules for Kent & Medway. Kindness into Action is an evidence-based online course, bringing to life the impact of respect, kindness, positivity and incivility in healthcare. The five short Kindness into Action modules provide bite-sized access to practical tools and strategies that you can start using right away in your practice. The full course duration is approximately 3.20 hours, for further information and details on how to access the course please see the attached course objectives and flyer.

Help make a difference for doctors in hardship – join the network of RMBF volunteers

The RMBF is the UK charity for doctors, medical students and their families. We provide financial support, money advice and information when it is most needed due to age, ill health, disability and bereavement.

We are looking for doctors to join our volunteer network and raise awareness of the support we offer across the UK. By joining us as a volunteer, you can help struggling colleagues to get vital help when they need it – whether that's via a presentation at work, a social media comment, or a well-placed poster or leaflet.

We rely on donations and receive no government funding, so a lot of our volunteers also fundraise for the RMBF in their local community.

This is a flexible role, and is designed to fit around work and other commitments.

As well as the chance to meet and network with other friendly and enthusiastic volunteers, RMBF volunteers gain the satisfaction of knowing they are making a difference to the lives of doctors, medical students and their families.

All volunteers get a full induction to the RMBF, covering the different kinds of support and resources we offer, our forthcoming activities, and more. We provide free print and digital resources to distribute, and cover expenses for certain activities (e.g. travelling to RMBF events). And our staff team is on hand to answer your questions and give advice on making an impact with your activities.

"It's easy to do – the role is primarily to raise awareness and talk about the RMBF when I can," said an RMBF volunteer.

For more information see the attached flyer, visit www.rmbf.org or contact Kate Bresler-Jones, Head of Volunteering on 020 8545 8447 or email kbreslerjones@rmbf.org.

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 contemplating 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](#)

****SAVE THE DATE** Kent LMC Annual Conference: Innovation in Practice - 5th October 2023**

We would like to invite you to join us in the afternoon of Thursday 5th October for our Annual Conference, which is FREE to attend and open to all GPs and Practice Managers across Kent & Medway.

We are delighted to announce Dr Rachel Morris, Executive and Team Coach, Specialist in Resilience at Work, GP, and Host of the [You Are Not A Frog](#) podcast will be joining us as a Keynote speaker, and we will also be covering topics on Digital Innovation, Next Generation GP & Mid Career GP Opportunities, KMMS Medical Students, Wellbeing and Primary to Secondary Care interface.

More details will follow in the coming weeks.

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