



18<sup>th</sup> December 2023

Dear Colleague

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

- Practice may have recently received a letter from KCC regarding ReferKent
- Invicta Training
- General Practice Alert State (GPAS) National Reporting Dashboard
- Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year
- Useful Links
- Upcoming LMC Interface Meetings

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

- Have your say on the future of general practice - COMPLETE OUR SURVEY
- GP finance survey
- Inclisiran
- Online access to records - data breaches from misfiling of records
- NHSE guidance on DHSC funding for non-consolidated pay awards
- MAPs to be regulated by the GMC - write to your MP
- Afghan relocation programme - ICB funding
- Annual Conference of Representatives of LMCs (UK) 2024
- Cameron Fund Christmas Appeal 2023
- Preparation for any future ballot

### **Practice may have recently received a letter from KCC regarding ReferKent**

**ReferKent** - for organisations who support Kent residents - Kent County Council is a programme that is running alongside the Digital Kent initiative (the LMC had an item on that in the weekly bulletin of 31<sup>st</sup> July 2023) in the Financial Hardship Programme at KCC. The GDPR compliant online referral system is for adults only and aims to strengthen referrals across Kent for adults and families who are affected by the cost-of-living crisis, there are many useful services to refer patients to from addiction support to homelessness services.

### **Invicta Training**

The Invicta staff training team will be contacting practices to ask for clarification of which staff registered on Learning Pool are ARRS staff, or staff employed by a local Federation, rather than being employed directly by a practice. There has been a significant increase in the demand for some training and it would be helpful to understand what factors are driving the demand so that training can be tailored appropriately going forward, and so we would ask that all practices please provide this information to the Invicta team when requested.

### **General Practice Alert State (GPAS) National Reporting Dashboard**

The national GPAS reporting dashboard has been published and shows the pressure general practice is under. Last week Kent & Medway practices reported Opel 4.

Thank you to practices that continue to provide input into GPAS on a weekly basis. The information you provide is invaluable in evidencing the pressure general practice is operating

under. The GPAS information from the national dashboard will be used by the BMA and feed into contract negotiations.

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 also provide comments and feedback. Furthermore, if you are experiencing acute operational pressures please do get in touch with either the LMC or the ICB to seek support

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](mailto:info@kentlmc.org) **If your GPAS contact person changes or leaves the practice, please update us with the new contact person at [info@kentlmc.org](mailto:info@kentlmc.org)**

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

The LMC is currently working the ICB to explore the support that can be offered to practices when declaring any state beyond Green. For example this could be additional resources, changes to operations with a practice or the wider healthcare system, assistance with communications. We would welcome any ideas from practices as to the help or support that could be offered to a practice when challenged by increased operational pressures and so declaring, a state of amber, red or black: please send them to the LMC at [info@kentlmc.org](mailto:info@kentlmc.org)

### **Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year**

Kent LMC would like to wish all General Practice across Kent and Medway a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. We do hope you all get some well earned rest and respite from what has been another exceptionally challenging year. The LMC office will be staffed throughout the Christmas period, the best way of contacting us as usual is through email [info@kentlmc.org](mailto:info@kentlmc.org) or 01622 851197. Please email us with your concerns and when and how you wish us to reply.

### **Useful Links**

[Subscribe to Kent & Medway ICB General Practice Updates](#)  
[Previous issues of the General Practice Update available online](#)  
[Subscribe to NHSE Primary Care Bulletin](#)  
[Email Newsletters from CQC](#)  
[Kent and Medway Primary Care Training Hub](#)  
[Sign up to Primary Care News](#)

### **Upcoming LMC Interface Meetings**

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

**Medway NHS Foundation Trust Interface Mtg (MFT) – Wednesday 10 January**  
**K&M ICB Interface Meeting – Thursday 18 January**  
**Kent & Medway General Practice Board – Wednesday 24 January**  
**Full LMC Committee – Thursday 25 January**  
**LMC Sessional GP Sub-Committee – Thursday 25 January**

Kind regards  
Kent Local Medical Committee