



2nd January 2024

Dear Colleague

Happy New Year and welcome to the first edition of the LMC Express for 2024. The local updates for this week include:

- Kent & Medway ICB: Premises improvement grant - expressions of interest
- Kent & Medway ICB: Minor surgery enhanced service – important update
- General Practice Alert State (GPAS) National Reporting Dashboard
- Useful Links
- Upcoming LMC Interface Meetings

Kent & Medway ICB: Premises improvement grant - expressions of interest

We are sharing the following from the ICB Kent & Medway bulletin in case of help to practices:

The integrated care board expects to receive confirmation of a small capital grant allocation for 2024/25 early next year. Part of this funding can be used for GP premises improvements.

To enable us to understand the potential proposals and inform initial review and prioritisation, the primary care estates team are seeking expressions of interest.

In more recent years the capital funding has been allocated towards a smaller number of extension and reconfiguration projects that create capacity. For 2024/25, we propose allocating some of the funding to supporting smaller improvement projects and with specific consideration to issues highlighted in premises surveys undertaken through the primary care data gathering project.

For any proposed reconfiguration or expansion projects that create capacity, it is expected the potential project will have been discussed and detailed as part of the primary care network estates toolkit work. NHS Premises Cost Directions apply to all projects.

We have produced a [single EOI document](#) that includes:

Part A

A checklist to help practices understand the key criteria and requirements in line with Premises Cost Directions before making an EOI application.

Please note there are three criteria (“hurdle criteria”) that must be met before you can consider the full checklist.

We have provided some further guidance to help inform your consideration:

[eligible and non-eligible items](#)
[consulting rooms](#)
[installation of lifts.](#)

Part B

A short EOI form requiring only high-level information at this stage.

If you meet the hurdle criteria, then please complete the rest of the form - you can use the form to log any questions you may have, and the team will make contact (as required) when reviewing.

Please submit completed forms to kmicb.gpestates@nhs.net by **Friday, 12 January 2024**.

Kent & Medway ICB: Minor surgery enhanced service – important update

The ICB have been made aware of an issue which could impact on your ability to claim under the Minor Surgery Locally Commissioned Service.

Please read [this letter](#) from APEX which outlines the issues and what to do next to ensure you are being fully reimbursed for all minor surgery activity.

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 **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](#)

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

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 and all of your staff 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 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 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