

Heartbeat

February is now upon us – the year is already six weeks old and the start of Lent brings the daffodils ('Lent lilies') to suggest the promise of a change of season to spring before too very long.

Changes are also afoot in the primary care arena, so in this month's newsletter we have included a glimpse of some of these issues and suggested how we as an LMC have started, and plan to continue, to help guide and support you on what can sometimes seem a daunting journey.

Dorothy King, LMC Chair



Special LMC Conference

The BMA called a special conference of representatives of LMCs on Saturday 30 January 2016, to address the unsustainable pressures on General Practice.

The conference held in London, looked at the urgent and immediate actions, and medium and longer-term measures, that are needed to turn around this current workload and workforce crisis, to ensure that GPs can continue to deliver a safe and sustainable service in the future. [Click here to read more](#)



Sustainability and Transformation Plans (STPs)

The NHS planning guidance is an annual suite of documents that sets out the national priorities, longer-term challenges, financial assumptions and business rules for the coming year.

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For the first time, this year's guidance requires NHS leaders to produce two separate but connected plans:

- a one-year operational plan for 2016/17, focused on individual organisations
- a five-year sustainability and transformation plan place-based and driving the *NHS five year forward view*, for the period October 2016 to March 2021.

Sustainability and Transformation Plans (STPs) cover all areas of NHS England and CCG-commissioned activity, and will include better integration with local authority services.

Plans need to address a series of 'national challenges', which fall broadly into three themes:

- ❖ improving health and wellbeing
- ❖ improving quality and developing new models of care
- ❖ improving efficiency to achieve financial balance

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Public satisfaction with the NHS in 2015

Since 1983, NatCen Social Research's British Social Attitudes (BSA) survey has asked members of the public about their views on, and feelings towards the NHS and health and care issues.

The latest survey was carried out between July and October 2015 and asked a nationally representative sample of more than 2000 people about their satisfaction with the individual NHS services.

Each year there are higher levels of satisfaction with GPs than any other NHS services, and 2015 is no exception. However, satisfaction with general practice has been falling since 2010, and at 69% in 2015 was the lowest rate recorded since the survey began in 1983.

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GP Federations development programme

The LMC's funded development programme for Cheshire GP Federations (those taking a leadership role in the primary care organisations of tomorrow) started on 28 January, at Sandiway Golf Club.

The first of eight half days sessions brought together Federation representatives; GPs, Clinicians and Practice Managers, to learn and share experiences, with the support of external experts.

The focus for the first session was on 'Introduction and set development' – providing an opportunity for colleagues to make contact, start to discuss their similar concerns and uncertainties, and agree the scope and focus of the training programme.

The feedback from the session was excellent, with colleagues expressing a strong sense of emotional and peer support, as well as a sound grounding for the journey ahead.

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DBR checks for Locums

The LMC has learnt that the CQC were suggesting that DBR checks were required every time a locum is engaged, but guidance now reports that was not the case, as they would have such checks when being accepted for the performers list.



2016/17 LMC work plans

The LMC introduced the 2016/17 work plan to the Directors/Members at the January County Committee meeting for review and approval. Members formally agreed the activities proposed in the work plan, which will now get underway.



Greater Manchester LMC engagement

William Greenwood, CEO, has been invited to chair a 'General Practice organising to succeed' meeting at Grant Thornton offices in Manchester, on 23 February.

Click here to [read more](#)

www.cheshirelmcs.org.uk

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Practice Engagement

William Greenwood, CEO, and Julie Hughes, Business Manager, have continued to meet Practice Managers and GPs to discuss topical issues.

We aim to continue undertaking practice visits throughout the year and we look forward to seeing you in the near future. Email Julie if you would like us to visit you sooner!

Jhughes@cheshirelmc.org.uk



Support for Practice Managers

We have started to meet with Practice Manager colleagues at their regular group meetings - considering how we can help to support them by delivering practical workshops or learning sets.

We would like to meet with more local Practice Manager Group's. Please contact Julie Hughes, Business Manager, by email: Jhughes@cheshirelmc.org.uk to arrange for us to drop in for a friendly coffee and say hello!



BMA's Urgent Prescription for General Practice

Practices will soon receive their resource packs. The resource pack includes tools to help practices manage their workload and work more collaboratively locally.

Please [click here](#) to view the webpage



Cameron Fund Partnership Clinics

Please inform your members of our second partnership clinic on Friday 26 February – please click on the link below to download the flyer and for more information.

The Cameron Fund is offering these clinics as part of its work to prevent financial hardship and is not receiving any fee from or making any payment to BMA Law, its partner organisation. Please [click here](#) to read more and [click here](#) to download the flyer

We look forward to seeing you for a friendly catch up soon!

Don't forget – we are here to support you – just ask us...

Cheshire Local Medical Committee Ltd