

April 2016

Heartbeat

A new month is upon us. The spring flowers are full of colour, there is promise of some warmer weather at last, and the LMC will be preparing for the Conference of Local Medical Committees which takes place in London on 19th-20th May. This will provide an important opportunity for grass roots GPs to consider and debate the Forward View.

"The General Practice Forward View represents a significant and comprehensive package of proposals to support general practice both in the immediate and longer term, the most that we have seen since 2004"

Four representatives of the LMC will be attending conference, and we will report back with our impressions in the June edition of 'Heartbeat'.

Dorothy King, LMC Chair



LMC May Conference, London 19th & 20th May 2016

The Local Medical Committees (LMC) conference will be held 19-20 May 2016, with a change of venue this year being held at The Mermaid Conference & Events Centre, London Blackfriars. Four LMC representatives will be attending conference, one as an observer.

In terms of next steps, the LMC Conference in May will provide an important opportunity for grass roots GPs to consider and debate the *Forward View*. GPC will sit on the Advisory Oversight Group which will steer and drive implementation of the measures; it is vital that this programme of support is delivered rapidly so that practices receive the support so urgently needed. In the meantime, GPC has written this week to all GPs and LMCs highlighting the document and GPC's initial response.

The next edition of 'Heartbeat' will be in June to allow for an update on the LMC May Conference.

Member Representation on Cheshire LMC

As a thriving LMC committee we hold elections every two years, at which a proportion of your representatives may stand for re-election and to fill vacancies. Our next elections are due in March 2017 so if you have an interest in medico-politics and supporting your colleagues we would like to hear from you.

We have a number of 'in year' vacancies which we are looking to fill on a co-opted basis until the next elections. If you have an area of special knowledge or passion (for example GP contracts/ dispensing/ federation working/ commissioning/ education) please get in touch as we would like to hear from you.

LMC committee meetings take place around every 6 weeks on a Wednesday afternoon and we can reimburse you a set attendance allowance and travel costs. We would like to extend an invitation to GP registrars and practice managers to attend future meetings as observers.

For an informal discussion or more detail contact William or Julie via telephone or email 01244 313 483 / Wgreenwood@cheshirelmc.org.uk / jhughes@cheshirelmc.org.uk

General Practice Forward View - England Published

NHS England has now issued the above document.

As mentioned elsewhere in this newsletter you should already have had an opportunity to review the earlier GPC document 'Responsive, safe and sustainable: our urgent prescription for general practice' which outlines the urgent actions needed to alleviate the current significant pressures.

A large number of the GPCs proposals have been accepted by NHS England and included in their roadmap for the future entitled 'General Practice *Forward View* – England' which provides brief detail of a comprehensive package of support to general practice, both in the immediate and longer term. The initial Cheshire LMC view is clear that there are a number of areas requiring more clarity and work on the detail of implementation. The GPC agrees with this view that further information and analysis of the proposals is needed before we can fully understand their significance. GPC will continue to push NHS England to respond to the remaining areas outlined in our 'Urgent Prescription' which they have yet to address, as the implementation of these are vital to help resolve both the current and future pressures.

These documents, the attendant programmes and the local responses by NHS England and CCGs will be a key item on future agendas and will be for discussion at the LMC May meeting.

GP Federation Leadership and Development Programme

As we approach session five of our eight LMC funded sessions. 'Legal considerations for provider organisations' is another significant agenda as Ross Clarke will be on hand to advise on a wide range of corporate and corporate finance transactions, predominately in the health and social care sectors. Ross is a Partner and Head of the corporate team at Hempsons.

Ross is helping Clinical Commissioning Groups on the key issues they face in moving towards Authorisation under the Health and Social Care Act. Ross is also assisting GP's as providers, particularly on the formation of provider vehicles, joint ventures with private sector organisations and practice acquisitions and mergers.

Main areas of expertise

Clinical Commissioning Groups and the Health and Social Care Act

GP Federations

Joint ventures between public and private organisations

Corporate finance (all aspects of loan and facility agreements and associated security documentation)

Corporate governance including, in particular, directors' duties

Director and board disputes

The clients he works with GPs, Clinical Commissioning Groups (including Pathfinders) and GP Federations

NHS Foundation Trusts



GP practices are required by law to follow the Standard under Section 250 of the Health and Social Care Act

Are you?

Information Standard for GP practices

The Accessible Information Standard aims to ensure that disabled people have access to information they can understand and the communication support they may need. The Standard applies to service providers across the NHS and adult social care system. As organisations that provide NHS services, GP practices are required by law to follow the Standard under Section 250 of the Health and Social Care Act.

All organisations are expected to follow the Standard by 31 July 2016. Many practices are likely to be meeting a number of the requirements already. The GPC has produced a 'Focus On' guide, summarising practice responsibilities. Fuller details are available on the BMA website, under 'key guidance' or follow the <http://www.bma.org.uk/search?query=focus%20on%20summarising%20practice%20responsibilities>

Practice support

A number of practices have been in touch with us as they unfortunately have to close their lists due to work load pressures.

It is important that you get in touch with us at an early stage, if you have any practice based issues, which you feel we can help you with. The LMC can provide individual advice and support based on the technical knowledge and professional experience of our committee members and officers.

www.cheshirelmcs.org.uk

Our normal Crewe based office hours are Monday to Thursday 10:00 am to 16:00 pm but we are available at other times and days if you wish to contact us 01244 313 483.

Sessional GPs

The BMA's latest wave of general practice heat maps shows 90 per cent of GP practices in England are struggling to recruit locums. As partners and salaried GPs struggle to cover workload, the inability to recruit locums is worsening the situation, writes *BMA GPC sessional GPs subcommittee chair Vicky Weeks*.

Click on the link below to view April 2016 Sessional GPs Newsletter.

<http://bma-mail.org.uk/t/JVX-46095-1BJCJOU46E/cr.aspx>



“Saving practices time and money”

LMC Buying Groups Federation Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the LMC Buying Groups Federation took place in London on 5th April 2016.

The LMC Buying Group has continued to expand and they are continually monitoring costs to remain competitive. The federation now has over 6300 member practices in 53 LMC Buying Groups spread over 88 LMC areas in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. There are now only 20 LMCs in England and Wales who are not members.

Price checking

Burns Associates continue to undertake price checking for the deals negotiated on behalf of the Federation to ensure they remain competitive. Rigorous market testing is now ongoing at all times rather than focused in the run up to contract renewal. Nationally the Buying Group can still offer a better deal than local companies and are currently looking at deals on travel vaccinations.

Helen Shuker, LMC Buying Group Head of Operations is now settled into her new role focussing on operations and finance. A marketing administrator has been recruited and will be joining the team very soon to focus on communications and producing regular newsletters.

For further information please visit LMC Buying Group website <http://www.lmcbuyinggroups.co.uk/> or contact Helen Shuker at helen.shuker@lmcbuyinggroups.co.uk or telephone Helen on 0115 979 6910

Practices that are already members of the LMC Buying Group could you please notify Julie Hughes at jhughes@cheshirelmc.org.uk of any changes to a practice manager details.



Management in Practice Manchester 2016 | How will devolution affect your practice? 24th May at Bridgewater Hall, Manchester

It has been just a couple of weeks since Greater Manchester authorities took control of the £6bn health and social care budget. This landmark development has been long in the planning but do you fully understand what it means for your practice, your patients and the wider health economy?

With commissioning of services often labelled a 'postcode lottery', will this change offer a chance to really address the needs of the Greater Manchester population or result in more variation across the North West? What does this mean for practice funding? The GP Contract? Integration of health and social care?

The LMC is already asking local commissioners what plans, if any, they have for becoming part of the devolution model.

Management in Practice Manchester is taking place on the 24th May at Bridgewater Hall and will provide you with the latest advice and guidance from an expert panel of speakers.

The opening debate at Management in Practice is set to tackle some of these burning questions. *Speakers including Dr Tracey Vell, Chief Executive at Manchester LMC and Mark Beesley, Director, Primary Care Commissioning* will offer insight into these developments. As Devolution is already being rolled out across other areas of the UK, this is a critical session to help you understand a changing health economy.

To view the full programme <http://www.managementinpractice-events.co.uk/manchester/programme-2/>

To book your FREE place <http://www.managementinpractice-events.co.uk/register-here/>

www.cheshirelmcs.org.uk

QOF Guidance 2016/17

The 2016-17 QOF guidance has been published on the NHS Employers webpage (<http://www.nhsemployers.org/your-workforce/primary-care-contacts/general-medical-services/quality-and-outcomes-framework>)

The BMA webpage (<http://www.bma.org.uk/support-at-work/contracts/gp-contracts-and-funding/independent-contractors/qof-guidance>) has been updated to reflect the minor amendments made to QOF for 2016-17, which are:

- An adjustment to the value of a QOF point taking account of population growth and relative changes in practice list size from 1 January 2015 to 1 January 2016. The national average list size as of 1 January 2016 is 7460 and the value of a QOF point for 2016/17 will be £165.18
- No changes to thresholds for 2016/17
- No changes to QOF indicators

You will also be aware that as part of the negotiations for the 2017-18 contract, NHS Employers and GPC have agreed to explore ending QOF in its entirety.



Wellbeing for GPs: How the Workplace Wellbeing Charter could help practices

By Dr Jennifer Napier 22 April 2016

Dr Jennifer Napier is a GP in London an honorary research fellow at Queen Mary, University of London where she has researched wellbeing and workforce issues. She is also the founder of Contextualyse, a consulting company focused on supporting organisations to create healthy workplaces.

Health and wellbeing at work can make a real difference to people's lives - and improve patient care, argues Dr Jennifer Napier. So what can GPs do to make this a reality in their practice?

Would we be better doctors if we looked after ourselves more effectively? Would we be better colleagues, employers, parents and friends if work did not leave us feeling like we had been dragged through a hedge backwards?

Health and wellbeing at work has risen up the agenda internationally, as it is increasingly recognised that improving the wellbeing of working individuals and workplace communities has significant benefits for staff, employers and service users. In health care, there have been several studies confirming a relationship between the wellbeing of healthcare staff and the quality of healthcare that patients receive.

Public Health England promotes the national Workplace Wellbeing Charter, which is endorsed by NICE. The charter 'is a way of showing your commitment to the health of the people who work for you' providing a framework on how to make workplaces safe and productive places to work, and an award to aspire to.

The LMC continues to keep informed as to the plans of the local CCGs.

<http://www.wellbeingcharter.org.uk/index.php>

**The next edition of 'Heartbeat' will be in June
where we will bring you the latest updates
from the LMC Conference**

Cheshire Local Medical Committee Ltd

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