November 2021

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CHESHIRE LMC NEWS

Our current Chair Dr Stephen Kaye will be retiring in March 2022 and so we will be welcoming our new Chair Dr David Ward to the role. David is a GP in Poynton and has been a LMC member for a number of years, and is currently the Vice Chair.

Our Medical Director Dr Branwen Martin will also step down later in 2022 and we have recently been recruiting for her replacement. We will be announcing her replacement in the Christmas/New Year period.

CHESHIRE SYSTEM UPDATE

The Cheshire and Merseyside Integrated Care system is now making substantive officer appointments and consulting on its final governance arrangements. The LMC has provided comments on the latter. Graham Urwin (NHSE Cheshire & Merseyside Regional Office) has been appointed as the Chief Officer and will now make appointments to the senior team.

Our CCG continues to work with the ICS and the development of ‘Place Based Commissioning’ to establish operational arrangements in Cheshire East and West. Again, work is underway to establish the devolved CCG functions to this level.

Clearly these are areas of significant interest to the LMC as they impact our role in undertaking local negotiation and representation. The Health Bill which will formally establish ICSs and dis-establish CCGs is currently going through its latest Parliamentary stage for implementation on 1 April 2022.

RACISM SURVEY

OCTOBER 2021

Following on from work done by Humberside LMC, we have initiated a programme of work to look into this important subject across General Practice in Cheshire.

The survey is part of a Cheshire LMC strategy to review and address racial inequalities and barriers, and provide support for all those staff from ethnic minority backgrounds working in primary care. It is supported by our colleagues in the CCG and Local Authorities.

This is the start of a conversation where you can share experiences anonymously if you choose to do so; it is not compulsory, and hopefully, there will be other opportunities in future.

This survey is aimed at everyone working in general medical services provision in Cheshire of any ethnicity.

The deadline for returning the survey form is 30th November.

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MESSAGE FROM THE LMC CHAIR

Dear colleagues,

Further to our recent letter to all practices, there has now been further communication from GPC - the General Practitioners Committee of the BMA.

We recognise that these are extremely challenging times for everyone with workload demands and the complexity of care-provision at an all-time high. In response to the current challenges each practice should be encouraged to determine what is right for them, operating safely for both patients and staff. It is for each practice to decide how they deliver care to their patients and the type of consultations they use. Practices should not feel pressurised to work in a particular way. It is appropriate for practices to use their clinical and professional judgement to provide optimum and safe care for patients within their workforce constraints.

Whatever national actions are taken must command the support of GPs and practices. The LMC is here to support you and we take our mandate from you as our constituents. We want to hear from you to understand how you feel at the present time. We would therefore welcome your views on the measures proposed by GPC.

As CCGs disappear we are involved in developing the “Unified GP Provider Voice” (Confederation) arrangements in the new system in each health community (Cheshire East and Cheshire West). We will be sharing our thinking with PCN, Federation and CCG colleagues so that we can all truly speak with one voice to our local, system and national NHS partners.

We are here to support you in whatever you decide through these extremely difficult times.

Stephen Kaye
LMC Chair

GP WORKFORCE: THE FUTURE OF GENERAL PRACTICE INQUIRY

As you will be aware from our recent emails and our Cheshire LMC Guide to the NHSE/I document Improving Access the BMA is monitoring trends of how GPs choose to work, i.e., to better manage workload and work-life balance / stave off burnout etc., which is vitally important to workforce planning/projections and annual commissioning of medical school / foundation / GP training places and national budget projections.

The NHS currently has too few GP hours available to it, so talking up annual increases in the GP training intake completely misses out the fact that retention of hours is so porous that the number of FTE (full-time equivalent) GPs continues to drop. The more that our existing GPs seek to better manage their hours, stress / burnout / their wellbeing etc., the new GPs we need.

Sadly, it is a fact is there is no transparent workforce planning in England and hasn’t been for the best part of a decade now. The system knows it needs way more doctors, but the Treasury never invests sufficient funding. It’s for that reason that the BMA is currently a major contributor to a 50-strong coalition of organisations lobbying to make all future governments accountable (to Parliament) for healthcare workforce planning and projections. This would involve reports to Parliament from the Secretary of State every two years that contain workforce projections for the next 1, 5, 10 and 20 years. This now has support from Jeremy Hunt (somewhat unbelievably), chair of the Health Select Committee, and Jon Ashworth, Shadow Health Secretary, as well as a growing number of other MPs.

This needs to be a much higher priority for Government and the newly forming NHS structures in England. As an LMC we will be responding to the Inquiry which was announced this month. We have asked every GP and practice to consider submitting evidence direct but equally you can send your thoughts to us to consider in our evidence. As an LMC are we going to develop a reply to the Inquiry to be submitted by 14 December.

Evidence for the Inquiry is welcomed by all partners, sessional colleagues and GP Registrars. You can submit your views directly to https://committees.parliament.uk/work/1624/the-future-of-general-practice/ or to the LMC for consideration at WGreenwood@cheshirelmc.org.uk

William Greenwood
LMC Chief Executive

UNIT COSTS OF HEALTH WORKERS

The below link is a tool for costing units of clinician time eg when costing services.

https://www.pssru.ac.uk/project-pages/unit-costs/
Following several requests from local GPs we will be running a GP premises focused event on **12 January**.

This is being run with support from local system partners including Cheshire CCG Estates Team, our 2 ICPs, and Cheshire and Wirral Partnership.

Whilst there will be input on leases and planning for premises development, we will also be looking at what the future brings and how local practices can put together successful plans.

This workshop provides the opportunity to discuss the pertinent premises matters affecting primary care. The day will provide an update on the national agenda including a review of the latest toolkits and advice to support PCNs, and also to review and discuss the impact of this locally within Cheshire.

The workshop will also include time to consider the ongoing day-to-day premises matters and the reimbursement process including a question and answer session with the local CCG and PCC premises lead.

During the day we will focus on the following areas along with several opportunities for group discussion on the impact and actions required at a local level:

- National update and strategic direction including local perspective
- The impact of PCNs on the primary care estate
- Day to day management of practice premises – including Q&A session
- Developing an estate strategy – tools and support
- Net zero NHS – what this means for primary care

TO VIEW THE AGENDA [click here](#)

TO BOOK YOUR PLACE [click here](#) (numbers will be limited)

**Venue:** Nunsmere Hall Hotel, Northwich, CW8 2ES

(Refreshments and buffet lunch will be provided)

This event is FREE to attend.

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### MEDICAL SCHOOL PLACEMENTS

The University Of Buckingham Medical School are to welcome the second cohort of Medical Students to their Crew Campus in January 2022.

The course at Crewe mirrors the successful, GMC accredited MBChB at the Buckingham Campus and requires additional GP Placements for Clinical Skills Foundation Course (Years 1/2) and Narrative Medicine (Year 1/2) in 2022, and Primary Care (Year 3) and Elderly and Chronic Care (Year 4) courses in 2023 and beyond. The remuneration currently stands at £9000 per annum (CSFC) and £3400 for 18 months (Narrative Medicine).

For more information, please contact Dr Andy McKeown: andy.mckeown@buckingham.ac.uk Or visit: [https://medvle.buckingham.ac.uk/course/view.php?id=5](https://medvle.buckingham.ac.uk/course/view.php?id=5)

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### SESSIONAL GPs

- Quarterly journal clubs
- Occasional Speaker meetings
- Opportunity for networking and peer support

Proposed Journal Club meeting date 10th February 2022. We would welcome new committee members!

**Location.** Face-to-face meetings held centrally in Chester (COVID guidance permitting), or virtually via Microsoft Teams, usually from 7 pm.

**Contact:** Dr Sarah Lazarowicz via email s.martys@nhs.net
PATIENT ACCESS TO RECORDS VIA NHS APP DELAYED UNTIL APRIL NEXT YEAR

Plans to enable patient access to GP records via the NHS app will be delayed until April 2022.

Read more

CHESHIRE WEST AND CHESTER INTEGRATED SEXUAL HEALTH SERVICE

A big hello from the Cheshire West and Chester Integrated Sexual Health Service and welcome to our new and updated newsletter format. Our aim is to provide you with updates and information about what we do and how we do it.

Read more

NHS PENSIONS - RETIREMENT GUIDE

For members of the NHS Pension Scheme

This guide is provided by the NHS Business Services Authority (NHSBSA), who administer the NHS Pension Scheme on behalf of the Secretary of State for Health.

To download the Guide click here

IMPORTANT FOOTNOTE:

Our communication with you is extremely important to us.

If there have been any GP/Locum/Salaried GP/Practice Manager staff changes within your practice could you please email Julie Hughes jhughes@cheshirelmc.org.uk with an update to ensure our distribution list is up to date.