



*'Representing and
Supporting GPs'*

**ACTIVITY UPDATE
JUNE TO AUGUST 2014**

INTRODUCTION

We hope that you found previous editions of this publication informative.

This latest update has been emailed to all represented GPs and Practice Managers. Further copies can be downloaded from the *LMC Reports* section of our website at:
http://www.sheffield-lmc.org.uk/lmc_reports.htm.

Alternatively, hard copies can be requested from the LMC office via email to:
administrator@sheffieldlmc.org.uk.

If you have any feedback, suggestions for future editions etc, we would be pleased to receive these via email to manager@sheffieldlmc.org.uk.

SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL

We have maintained links with Sheffield City Council (SCC) in a variety of areas over the years. If there are any issues that GPs/Practice Managers feel it would be useful for the LMC to liaise with SCC about, please email the LMC office via manager@sheffieldlmc.org.uk.

Chlamydia Screening Pathway and the Introduction of Universal Dual Testing: We were consulted on, and had no concerns with these proposals. Our only request was that copies of results received in general practice for information are clearly marked as such, avoiding any misunderstanding as to who is going to action any noted treatment or follow-up.

SHEFFIELD CCG/COMMISSIONING EXECUTIVE TEAM (CET)

LMC Executive and Secretariat representatives met with CCG and CET representatives to discuss issues of mutual interest or concern, which included the Quality Premium, Unscheduled Care Working Group, Avoiding Unplanned Admissions Directed Enhanced Service (DES), e-referral pilot, quality of e-discharge communications, withdrawal of funding for occupational health and co-commissioning in primary care. If there are any issues that GPs/Practice Managers feel it would be useful for the LMC to liaise with CCG/CET representatives about, please email the LMC office via:
manager@sheffieldlmc.org.uk.

Where issues require more time and consideration than is practical at the monthly meetings, more detailed negotiations take place. Our recent negotiations include:

Quality Improvement Scheme (QIS): We voiced concerns about the number of elements that it was proposed would make up the QIS and the workload involved in completing yet more audits and were pleased to see some modifications to the proposal. However, these did not address all of our concerns, the main ones being that all of the work had to be undertaken in order to receive any payment and that there was a danger that completion of the QIS could become more of a box ticking exercise than a guarantee of improved quality. Further concerns were brought to our attention once the finalised document had been distributed to practices and we continue to discuss these with the CCG.

Care Homes Locally Commissioned Services (LCS): A number of practices have contacted us with concerns about the in-year contract changes in relation to this LCS. We understand there has been some further amendments to address some of these concerns, but we continue to communicate with the CCG on this in order to represent practices' views adequately.

Commissioning of Sexual Assault Referral Centres: We submitted our comments on this consultation and have sought reassurances about the services that are to be made available for children.

SOUTH YORKSHIRE AND BASSETLAW (SY&B) LMCs AND NHS ENGLAND **SOUTH YORKSHIRE AND BASSETLAW AREA TEAM**

We continue to meet regularly as SY&B LMCs, as well as with the Area Team. The main topics recently have been the 2014/15 budget plan for Primary Care, co-commissioning in primary care, late/incorrect payments to GP practices, capital bids, delivery of the seasonal flu vaccination programme, complaints handling, withdrawal of funding for occupational health services and Transforming Primary Care Support (PCS) Services.

Where issues require more time and consideration than is practical at these meetings, more detailed negotiations take place. Our recent negotiations include:

Withdrawal of the Minimum Practice Income Guarantee (MPIG) and Personal Medical Services (PMS) Contract Review: We continue to make representations to the Area Team, work with local practices and liaise with the General Practitioners Committee, in the hope that the process of moving to equitable funding does not have any avoidable negative impact on Sheffield practices and the services that can be provided to Sheffield patients. An agreement has yet to be reached on the timescale and principles for all of the changes and we hope that such detail can be agreed and shared with practices shortly.

MISCELLANEOUS MEETINGS/NEGOTIATIONS

Sheffield LMC and Sheffield Local Pharmaceutical Committee (LPC): We met with our pharmaceutical colleagues to discuss issues of mutual interest or concern such as changes to Stop Smoking Services, Sexual Health Services and Any Qualified Providers (AQPs), Drug and Alcohol Strategy, GP Electronic Prescription Ordering, Electronic Prescription Services (EPS) 2, Distance Selling Pharmacies and Unavailable and Short Stock Medicines.

Frequent ad hoc meetings and negotiations take place, which are too numerous to mention individually. However, the main topics we have held negotiations on recently are:

- Withholding/displaying practice telephone numbers;
- Availability of ritual circumcision;
- Requests for medical reports from the Combat Stress Welfare Support Team;
- Managing housebound anticoagulation patients;
- Lasting Powers of Attorney;
- Mental Health Action Group Sheffield requests for GP referral forms;
- Patient Participation Directed Enhanced Service (DES) Appeals;
- Paperless referral pilot;
- Hospital doctors issuing fit notes;
- Transport to hospital outpatients;
- Interpreter services;
- Provision of prescriptions for Monitored Dosage Systems (MDSs);
- Prescribing intervals;
- Vitamin D prescribing;
- Travel vaccination provision and funding.

Any GPs/Practice Managers who have concerns about any of the above issues and would like more information about concluded or on-going negotiations can request this via email to: manager@sheffieldlmc.org.uk.

LMC EXECUTIVE/SECRETARIAT

New Committee Member: We were pleased to welcome Kirsty Ward, a First 5 GP, to the June LMC meeting as an observer. Kirsty has subsequently provided extremely valuable feedback and we hope to use this to continue to strengthen our links with newly qualified doctors. To this end, if any First 5 GPs would be interested in attending LMC meetings, either as a one off experience, or on a more regular basis, they would be very welcome. Attendance can be arranged by contacting the LMC office via manager@sheffieldlmc.org.uk. Kirsty has subsequently been co-opted to an elected member vacancy on the LMC and we thank her for her interest and hope that she will find membership of the LMC to be an interesting and useful experience.

GP Trainee Representatives: We would like to take the opportunity to thank a number of GP Trainees for their input and support:

- Imran Butt was our ST1 representative and continues as our ST2 representative;
- Alex Rawlings was our ST2 representative and continues as our ST3 representative;
- Emily Randles was our ST3 representative and we wish her well in her travels and hope to welcome her back on to the committee at some stage;
- Philippa Burch has volunteered to become our ST1 representative from September;
- Laura Smy has volunteered to become our ST2 representative and, as a result, we now have two ST2 representatives.

The level of interest in joining the LMC and the valuable input we receive from our GP Trainee representatives is greatly appreciated.

Welcome to Amanda Murphy: We are very pleased to announce the appointment of Amanda Murphy, who is covering Emma Birtle's maternity leave until June 2015. Amanda is settling in well and is already proving to be a valuable member of the team. Further information and contact details can be found at <http://www.sheffield-lmc.org.uk/secretariat.htm>.

Temporary Farewell to Tim Hooson: Tim's absence from the LMC during his 12 month sabbatical will be hard to cover. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Tim for his tireless and much appreciated input at LMC meetings, as well as providing LMC representation on a variety of vaccination and immunisation groups. We look forward to welcoming him back in due course.

Practice Manager Visits: As noted in previous editions, the LMC Secretariat offer new Practice Managers the opportunity to be visited or visit the LMC's offices, in order to familiarise themselves with the work the LMC does to represent Sheffield GPs and support Practice Managers. This is also proving to be a valuable way for the LMC to hear first-hand the challenges faced by new Managers and to be able to offer assistance promptly. If any Practice Manager would like more information about how the LMC can support them, we would be pleased to hear from them via: manager@sheffieldlmc.org.uk.