

# SHEFFIELD LOCAL MEDICAL COMMITTEE

# Newsletter

# NOVEMBER 2014

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### ***DEVELOPMENT OF GENERAL PRACTICE PROVISION IN SHEFFIELD***

**THURSDAY 20 NOVEMBER  
7 PM TO 9 PM  
(REFRESHMENTS FROM 6.30 PM)  
THE DOUBLE TREE HOTEL,  
MEADOWHEAD**

On 3 November 2014 all represented Sheffield GPs and Practice Managers should have received an email from David Savage, LMC Secretary noting that the LMC had agreed to assist in the facilitation of this meeting.

The proposal is for a Sheffield GP Provider Group to represent general practice in contract negotiations over and above core services. The LMC believes it is important that all practices have an opportunity to hear the proposals and discuss issues in an open forum, in order for practices to decide whether or not they wish to support the development of a GP Provider Board and give a mandate for contract negotiations. Therefore, we would encourage practices to ensure that they are represented at the meeting.

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### ***HARNESSING PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR PRIMARY CARE & THE NHS CALL FOR HELP!***

*Article submitted by  
Dr Kirsty Ward, First5 Salaried GP*

The build up to the election is well under way and the NHS & GPs are featuring heavily in party politics and the media.

As a Sheffield GP, I wonder whether our voice is being heard and whether our concerns are effectively communicated to the Public. One way to achieve this could be to produce a DVD with local GPs outlining the current stresses and demands on GP services. The target audience would be mainly local patients, but also local MPs and Councillors. The DVD could be distributed to local community areas, such as GP waiting rooms and could be made accessible on mobile devices etc via You Tube. This could serve to better inform our patients, the voters and empower them to challenge the politicians and influence policy making.

If you feel that such an initiative is worth pursuing please contact me at: [keward@doctors.net.uk](mailto:keward@doctors.net.uk)

If there is sufficient interest we can set up a working party to take this forward, when we can identify the key messages to get across and what technical support would be required.

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### ***NHS ENGLAND CAPITAL PLANNING 2015-16***

All Practice Managers should have received a communication dated 24 October 2014 from Richard Armstrong, Interim Director of Commissioning at the South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw (SY&B) Area Team.

Managers will note that:

- any practice that wishes to make an application for capital funding for 2015-16 is asked to confirm this with the Area Team **by the middle of November**;
- fully completed Project Initiation Documents (PIDs) should be supported and signed by the local

Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and submitted to the Area Team by 5 December 2014.

At a meeting with the Area Team on Thursday 6 November, SY&B LMCs expressed concern at the short timescale, suggesting that it was unreasonable to expect practices to have their bid in place, supported and signed by the CCG in this timeframe.

The Area Team confirmed that there will be no flexibility on the 5 December deadline for receipt of PIDs, although they would accept confirmation from the practice that this was in the process of being discussed with the CCG, with a view to confirming support and sign off at the earliest opportunity.

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### **MATERNITY PAY FOR GP TRAINEES**

The General Practitioners Committee (GPC) has alerted LMCs to some confusion regarding payment of maternity leave to GP Trainees. To clarify, each new post on a rotation that a GP Trainee undertakes does not constitute a break in service. It has been confirmed to the GPC that there has been no change in policy from NHS England's National Support Centre.

Where practices have followed the provisions in the GP Trainees framework contract on maternity pay, which are consistent with the Directions to Health Education England (GP Registrars) 2013 and the NHS Litigation Authority (GP Registrars) 2013, the GP Trainee is entitled to receive ordinary maternity pay (OMP) and should be fully reimbursed in accordance with the Directions.

Paragraph 15.3 (b) (iii) of the Statement of Financial Entitlements (SFE) 2013 (page 58) confirms that NHS England should reimburse maternity pay if 'the performer on leave is entitled to that leave under... a contract of employment'.

Reassurances were sought from the SY&B Area Team on 27 October and at a recent meeting in November, and we await their update.

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### **LATE PAYMENT OF NHS PENSION SCHEME CONTRIBUTIONS**

The GPC has alerted LMCs to the fact that during recent months a number of GP practices have not met the deadline for payment of pension contributions for their staff to the Scheme.

On 1 April 2014 NHS Pension Scheme regulations changed, authorising NHS Pensions to charge interest at a rate of 4.7% APR and an administration charge of £75.00 to employers who pay late.

An amount is deemed late where contributions do not reach the NHS Pensions bank account by the 19th of the month, following the month in which the earnings were paid to the member.

In order to avoid inadvertently paying late when using the GP1 payment processing method, please note the following:

- Ensure that you submit the payment request with sufficient time for the payment to clear. The GP1 submission initiates a Direct Debit payment from your bank account that requires two to five working days (this excludes weekends and bank holidays). Payments submitted by the recommended processing date and time will ensure payment is received on time.
- Ensure that you press the "SUBMIT" button on the GP1 at the bottom of the screen. A small number of employers have missed making a payment because they have printed the input screen when processing the GP1 without finalising the action. A screen message will confirm your payment has been submitted.

If you have any enquiries please email:

[nhsbsa.pensionsfinance@nhs.net](mailto:nhsbsa.pensionsfinance@nhs.net)

Further information about the introduction of the changes to the Scheme Regulations can be found at:

[http://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/Documents/Pensions/TN03\\_-\\_2014\\_-\\_Employer\\_Newsletter\(2\).pdf](http://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/Documents/Pensions/TN03_-_2014_-_Employer_Newsletter(2).pdf)

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### **NHS PROPERTY SERVICES: STANDARD LEASE**

The GPC has alerted LMCs to the fact that NHS Property Services is circulating a lease that is being framed a 'standard lease'. In some parts of the country it has been implied that this lease has the backing of the British Medical Association (BMA). Although the GPC has had a number of discussions with NHS Property Services about developing a standard lease, the GPC has not agreed to a standard lease, nor endorsed one.

This is particularly relevant for GP tenants of NHS Property Services buildings who are in the process of negotiating a new lease with NHS Property Services. The GPC has advised that any GP tenants in this position should not sign any lease without seeking specialist legal advice first.

The GPC is raising this issue with NHS Property Services, as it was their understanding that a standard lease was not in circulation. If any GPs have evidence to the contrary, it would be appreciated if this could be brought to the LMC's attention via email to:

[secretary@sheffieldlmc.org.uk](mailto:secretary@sheffieldlmc.org.uk)

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### **DOCTORS IN TRAINING (DIT) CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS**

The BMA entered into contract discussions with NHS Employers (NHSE), however, after a year of negotiations, it has not proved possible to reach agreement on key issues. Consequently, negotiations on a new contract for doctors in training in the UK have stalled.

Aside from the common difficulties relating to unsociable hours, leave and business and other travel costs, one of the key sticking points for GP Trainees was the training supplement. This boosts their income to ensure that it is broadly in line with other junior doctors. The supplement was originally introduced for recruitment and retention purposes. Given the Government's stated aim of increasing the number of GP Trainees, it is of vital

importance that a suitable payment system continues to be in place.

The Department of Health has now instructed the Doctors' and Dentists' Review Body (DDRB) to make recommendations on:

- proposals for pay structures that include the ending of time-service incremental progression;
- information on the working patterns of doctors in training;
- how the current pay envelope could be used differently to increase basic pensionable salaries, providing appropriate reward of additional work, whilst supporting services and training across the seven day week.

The BMA has been given a deadline of 31 December to provide evidence to the DDRB. It is expected that the review body will report in July 2015.

Further information is available at: <http://bma.org.uk/working-for-change/in-depth-junior-and-consultant-contract>

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### **FRIENDS & FAMILY TEST (FFT) MATERIALS**

NHS England has published a range of materials relating to the FFT that practices can use to publicise the scheme. These can be accessed via: <http://www.england.nhs.uk/ourwork/pe/fft/fft-comms-res/>

The FFT becomes a contractual requirement for GP practices from 1 December 2014. The GPC, NHS England and NHSE have jointly published guidance to help practices with implementation, which can be accessed at: <http://www.nhsemployers.org/~media/Employers/Documents/Primary%20care%20contracts/GMS/FFT%20guidance.pdf>

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### **DRUG DRIVING**

The Department of Transport has issued guidance for healthcare professionals on drug driving. The guidance provides an explanation of the new drug driving offence, including the statutory 'medical

defence' available to patients who have taken their medicine in accordance with the advice of a healthcare professional and the information contained in the leaflet accompanying the medicine. It also reiterates existing advice that healthcare professionals would normally consider giving to patients about taking medicines that could impair their driving.

A copy of the guidance can be accessed via:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/325275/healthcare-profs-drug-driving.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/325275/healthcare-profs-drug-driving.pdf)

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### **PATIENT ONLINE SERVICES**

*Article submitted by  
Dr Mutaz Aldawoud, Digital  
Clinical Champion, NHS England*

Patient Online is an NHS England programme designed to support GP practices to offer and promote online services to patients, namely:

- access to summary information (allergies, adverse reactions and medication) from their records;
- appointment booking;
- repeat prescriptions.

The contractual obligations of GP practices to offer and promote online services to patients **by 31 March 2015** are outlined in The National Health Service (General Medical Services Contracts and Personal Medical Services Agreements) Amendment Regulations 2014, available at: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2014/465/regulation/8/made>

Patient Online has been working in partnership with the BMA, the Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP) and other Royal Colleges to develop materials to support GPs, which are available at: <http://elearning.rcgp.org.uk/patientonline>

These materials include implementation guides, checklists, registration forms, case studies, videos, reports, FAQs and guides to assist GP practices in delivering these services.

**Next steps:** The Yorkshire and the Humber Commissioning Support Unit (CSU) Business Support Service is available to support practices with online access. If you require any support please contact:

Wendy Lawrence, Programme Manager, Email: [wlawrence@nhs.net](mailto:wlawrence@nhs.net) or tel: 0114 305 4552 / 01302 566033.

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### **BMA 2015 RESEARCH GRANTS**

Applications are invited from medical practitioners and/or research scientists, for research in progress or prospective research.

The 2015 research grants will be available to apply for online on the BMA website from 9 December 2014: <http://bma.org.uk/researchgrants>

The application deadline is 5 pm on 9 March 2015.

If you have any questions about the BMA research grants, or would like to receive alerts about them, please contact:

[info.sciencegrants@bma.org.uk](mailto:info.sciencegrants@bma.org.uk) or tel: 020 7383 6755.

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Please forward any articles, comments etc for inclusion in the LMC newsletter to the LMC office via email to:

[manager@sheffieldlmc.org.uk](mailto:manager@sheffieldlmc.org.uk).

**Articles for the December edition to be received by Friday 5 December 2014**

**Further submission deadlines can be found at:**  
[http://www.sheffieldlmc.org.uk/Newsletters14/VB\\_and\\_Newsletter\\_Deadlines.pdf](http://www.sheffieldlmc.org.uk/Newsletters14/VB_and_Newsletter_Deadlines.pdf)