

ROTHERHAM LOCAL MEDICAL COMMITTEE

NEWSLETTER

JULY/AUGUST 2010

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White Paper – Equity and Excellence Liberating the NHS

The LMC met on 26th July to debate this important white paper.

Discussions centred on the likely commissioning arrangements for Rotherham. Prior to the meeting, all Rotherham GPs were contacted by e-mail to canvass their opinion. It was noted that there were difficulties in making even broad statements on commissioning at this stage, in the absence of further detail from the government. However, members favoured: -

One commissioning group for the Rotherham area.

A commissioning management structure which does not rely on a private provider of commissioning management but instead might draw on the expertise of former PCT staff or indeed other experienced staff with a non-PCT background.

Since the publication of the white paper, there have been a number of consultation documents issued, and the LMC urge you to read and respond directly to the DoH on the questions posed therein, before the

consultation period closes on 11th October 2010. This may be your only window of opportunity to shape the changes which will affect us all. The documents are titled-

- Transparency in Outcomes
- Increasing democratic legitimacy in health
- Commissioning for patients
- Regulating healthcare providers

and they can be downloaded directly from the Department of Health (DoH) website at:

<http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Healthcare/LiberatingtheNHS/index.htm>

The BMA's Health Policy and Economic Research Unit (HPERU) has also produced a useful briefing note, which you should have already received from us by e-mail. A copy of the briefing note can be downloaded from the BMA website at:

http://www.bma.org.uk/images/hperuwhitepapersummaryjuly2010_links_tcm41-198671.pdf

It will be of the utmost importance to engage at practice level with the commissioning agenda, and most particularly with consortia and consortia clinical leads. The LMC are

keen that we provide practices with accurate information about developments. Our Medical Secretary will arrange an LMC/PBC-sponsored meeting in September in which all Rotherham GPs will be invited to discuss the future of commissioning.

In the meantime we would welcome your thoughts and concerns to inform us in our discussions with NHS Rotherham and others.

GMS Contract Uplift

The GPC recently circulated a letter to all GPs confirming how the GMS contract uplift would be distributed across the contractual streams in 2010/11.

Further copies of the letter can be downloaded at:

www.bma.org.uk/images/Letter%20to%20GPs%20in%20England%20-%20June%202010_tcm41-197559.pdf

NHS Appraisal Toolkit

We have been informed by the Department of Health that they will be allowing their contract with SCHIN, the providers of the NHS Appraisal Toolkit, to expire at the end of October. Following this, they do not intend to hold a contract with one appraisal toolkit provider or fund one particular appraisal system centrally. It is their intention to promote a situation where the NHS has a choice of tools to support appraisal and eventually revalidation. We will provide an update once the BMA has had time to consider their response.

Pension Contributions for GP Locums

The BMA has produced guidance *Information on Pension Contributions for GP Locums*, which details important issues that practices need to be aware of when employing or engaging the services of a GP locum.

Please note that this guidance has restricted access – login to the BMA website is required in order to access the guidance.

Sessional GPs Newsletter

The Summer 2010 newsletter contains information about new and ongoing issues affecting Sessional GPs. Issues covered include: -

- GPC Sessional GPs Representation Working Group report
- Annual Conference of Local Medical Committees 2010
- Salaried GPs' Pay
- BMA Salaried GPs' handbook - 2010 edition
- 'Making the most of being a salaried GP' seminars

A copy of the newsletter can be downloaded from the BMA website at:

http://www.bma.org.uk/images/sessionalgpsnews10_tcm41-198496.pdf

Tax Brackets

Following the announcement of the emergency budget on 22 June, specialist accountants have now reviewed the BMA 'Focus on new tax brackets' guidance.

The previous advice about superannuation has been removed as it is no longer applicable, as well as the spreadsheet illustrating how the tax could affect income for the year 2009-10 as it is out of date. Otherwise the guidance remains the same and we would urge practices to seek advice where necessary from an accountant.

The revised guide is available on the BMA website:

<http://www.bma.org.uk/employmentandcontracts/tax/focustaxbrackets.jsp>

Attendance at Meetings

Constituents are reminded that they are always welcome to attend meetings of the LMC as observers.

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**NEXT
LMC MEETING**

**MONDAY
13th SEPTEMBER**

**COMMENCING
AT 7.30 PM**

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