



Newsletter – December 2017



MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM YOUR LMC!!

LMC Meeting 11th December 2017

At our last LMC meeting we discussed a range of issues including; Rapid Access Clinics, hospital services review, Diabetes LES, extended hours arrangements, quality contract sub-contracting, child pathways, NHS 111 bookings, Insulin Administration Charts and Dementia LES.

Public Health Contracts

Health checks, sexual health services and opiate shared care have all been tendered to none GMS/PMS providers in the last few months. This clearly presents a challenge for General Practice.

The LMC are meeting with Parkwood Healthcare to discuss Health Checks and CGL to discuss the drugs and alcohol service on 8th January.

Meanwhile the Smokefree service in Doncaster was put out to tender recently Yorkshire Smokefree was awarded the contract. Further details from Simon Lister, Service Manager, Yorkshire Smokefree Doncaster and Rotherham on 07770494808

Integrated Sexual Health Service

The first proposal to contract back to GPs (for sexual health services from 1st April 2018) was presented to the LMC on 11th December - details of their offer have been circulated to GP practices.

This offer does not compare favourably with the current agreement locally or with other offers around the country and as such we have concerns that many practices will not be able to make this work with the resource provided.

We have written to the TRFT Service Lead with our concerns, particularly with regards to the requirement for an FSRH Certificate of Competency after 12 months.

TRFT have responded with an alternative solution to enable experienced GP fitters to continue to provide the service.

Meanwhile practices should take their time to carefully consider the implications over time (to their own practice and patients) of sub-contracting to a third party who have undertaken to provide a service in what may not be a sustainable way.

If you intend to provide or not provide this service please let LMC know so we can raise

any concerns we have about groups of patients not being able to adequately access services. If necessary we can have further conversations with the Federation (CIC), RMBC, TRFT, or others who have received new contracts locally, about what resources are realistically needed and available in General Practice if neighbourhood services are to be preserved.

LMC officers would also be happy to talk to practices individually about their particular situation.

Additional Primary Care Hours in Rotherham

Practices have been recently asked by the CCG to complete a survey outlining the various DES / LES options.

The LMC provided further information, but we advised the CCG that in regard to a LES, practices could only firmly commit once they know the full terms. Our understanding is that practices have completed the form as an *expression of interest* rather than firm commitment until all the terms are clear.

Clinical Peer Review

The LMC have recently sent to CCG the guidance received from GPC on 6th October advising that NHSE are withdrawing the national programme of clinical peer reviews.

Quality Contract Payment Deadlines

We recently wrote to practices about this and from the replies received there seems to be an almost universal lack of awareness amongst the practice managers of the December deadlines.

We've asked the CCG to remind practices of the data submission arrangements.

Payment delays to practices

The LMC have intervened in a complaint from Morthen Road Group Practice regarding two late payments of their GMS monthly global sum. Although this has been resolved via Head of Finance at CCG it raises the question of why there is no formal policy to reimburse practices for late payment costs. We have raised this with the CCG.

Funded coaching for GPs

Following the earlier success of the national coaching programme, NHS England are offering fully funded one-to-one tailored coaching for GPs. You will gain three 90-minute confidential sessions by highly experienced and qualified coaches to help you

think through where you are and where you want to be in today's challenging and changing environment. This will help you identify goals for the next steps that can give you satisfaction and fulfilment, and support you to make them happen.

Places are limited on a first-come-first-serve basis by 31 January 2018. More info here:

<https://www.engage.england.nhs.uk/survey/18f2a4cf/>

Diabetes Shared Care Pathway

Despite continuing discussions with CCG, the LMC are of the view that this is a clear transfer of Diabetes Type II clinic work from secondary care without adequate resourcing. The LMC have asked the CCG why is the money not coming out of the block contract for the diabetic service transfer for GPs

GP appointments

NHSE intend to include an indicator on each practice page on NHS Choices to identify whether weekday evening or weekend appointments are offered, either through local arrangements e.g. extended hours DES or through other CCG commissioned services.

NHS Choices are already approaching practices about this. They are requesting practices to add further information to their pages. It is one thing for practices to inform patients of what services are available, however we do not believe it

is appropriate for them to be promoting messages such as the one in the recommended text which included this, "*By March 2019 everyone in England will benefit from access to general practice appointment in evenings and weekends at a time that is most convenient to them*".

Practices are reminded that they have no obligation to post such messages.

Ongoing CHP and NHS Property Services Issues

Message from GPC:-

We are writing to you to update you on the issues with NHSPS (NHS Property Services) and CHP (Community Health Partnerships).

As you may be aware, last month we issued a freedom of information request to NHSPS and CHP to extract central information over their charging policy with a view to fully understanding why many practices are receiving invoices which appear to bear no resemblance to services used.

The request issued to CHP is being progressed and we hope to be able to report to you early in the New Year on our findings.

The request issued to NHSPS did generate a response from NHSPS but unfortunately there is ambiguity in some of the information provided which we are having to clarify. As soon as this ambiguity has been clarified, which again is expected in January, we will be able to update you on our findings.

In the interim, we wanted to highlight to you that we are

receiving details that practices may receive a letter (again) demanding payment of outstanding invoices. If you receive this letter and continue to have concerns over the basis and level of the service charges incurred, we would recommend that you respond asking NHSPS to provide some fundamental and indeed reasonable details; namely

(i) details of the specific legal basis upon which they believe the charges are payable, with reference to the terms of occupancy of the premises;

(ii) details and/or evidence to prove that the charges reflect the services used by the practice or in connection with their specific building; and

(iii) in so far as not answered by (i) and (ii), and to the extent relevant, a detailed explanation of why the practice is being asked to pay increased service charges compared to previous years.

We are aware that this issue has been going on for a while and the distress and uncertainty it is causing practices. In response, we are escalating matters quickly with a view to bringing this issue to a sensible resolution

Sessional GP Newsletter

Here is the link for this month's newsletter:

<http://bma-mail.org.uk/t/JVX-5CGEQ-1BJCJOU46E/cr.aspx#>

LMC Buying Group

Rotherham LMC joined the LMC Buying Groups Federation in March 2011 to deliver savings to practices without creating any additional work or inconvenience.

Membership entitles you to discounts on products and services provided by the Buying Group's suppliers. Membership is free and there is no obligation on practices to use all the suppliers. However, practices can save thousands of pounds a year just by switching to Buying Group suppliers. To view the pricing and discounts on offer you need to log-in to the Members section of the Buying Group website:

<https://www.lmcbuyinggroups.co.uk/>

Not convinced the Buying Group can save your practice money? Well why not challenge them to do just that. The Buying Group offers a free cost analysis service that aims to show member practices how much money they could save just by swapping to buying group suppliers. They can also provide this service for groups of practices working together. For more information, contact the Buying Group on

0115 979 6910 or email

info@lmcbuyinggroups.co.uk

LMC Meetings

GP constituents are reminded that they are always welcome to attend meetings of the LMC as observers. The Committee meets on the second Monday of every month (except August) in the Board Room at Rotherham General Hospital

NEXT LMC MEETING

**MONDAY
8th JANUARY 2018
COMMENCING
AT 7.30 PM**

OFFICERS OF THE LMC

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If you have any questions or agenda items, or wish to submit articles

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