

Newsletter

December 2022

Sheffield
LMC



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WELCOME TO AMY WATSON, LMC ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

We are pleased to announce that following a full recruitment process we have appointed Amy Watson as LMC Administrative Assistant. Amy's main responsibilities include ensuring that the LMC represents all eligible Sheffield GPs, maintaining the LMC's electronic and hard copy filing systems, production of the LMC newsletter and vacancy bulletin and providing comprehensive secretarial support. Amy's background is in reception and administration, and we look forward to the fully staffed LMC Secretariat being in a strong position to ensure the smooth running of the LMC office.

Please note that Amy works 9 am to 5 pm Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.

Up-to-date contact details and additional information about the LMC Secretariat can be found [here](#).

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SECONDARY CARE CONTACT WITH GP PRACTICES

We have received a request from secondary care colleagues regarding difficulties returning GPs' calls. Where a GP leaves a message requesting an urgent call back, we would suggest that it is good practice to provide a mobile or practice bypass number, rather than secondary care staff experiencing long delays via the practice's public telephone number.

If a personal, one to one phone call with a consultant is not required, then it may be sensible to suggest a response by the generic practice Integrated Care Board (ICB) email address, which is unique to each practice.

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LMC ENGLAND CONFERENCE 2022

The 2022 Annual Conference of England LMC Representatives was held on Thursday 24 November 2022, followed by a Special Conference on Friday 25 November 2022. Sheffield LMC was represented on both days by Alastair Bradley (Chair), Danielle McSeveney (Vice Chair), Gareth McCrea (Executive Officer) and Krishna Kasaraneni (Executive Officer).

The following information / documentation has been made available:

- [Conference Agenda](#)
- [Special Conference Agenda](#)
- [News, Resolutions and Elections](#)
- [Sheffield LMC report on Thursday 24 November 2022](#)
- [Sheffield LMC report on Friday 25 November 2022](#)

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VACANCY BULLETIN ADVERT SUBMISSION DEADLINES

We receive regular queries regarding the deadline for submitting job adverts for inclusion in our monthly Vacancy Bulletins.

We have to stick to a policy of not including adverts received after the submission deadline, in order to be fair to all constituents and to ensure that the bulletin can be finalised and distributed prior to any closing dates contained within the adverts, and within as short a period of time as possible after the submission deadline. Therefore, we would ask that you do not request inclusion of adverts in a particular edition if you are aware that you have missed the deadline.

Some practices have expressed concern that they might have been able to get their advert to us sooner had they known the deadline for the next edition. Each edition of the bulletin contains [a link to the submission deadlines](#) for the foreseeable future. This information can also be accessed via the [Vacancy Bulletin page of our website](#). Please note the **deadline of 12 noon** on the date indicated.

We hope that this information will assist practices with their recruitment processes.

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GENERAL PRACTICE APPOINTMENT DATA (GPAD) PUBLICATION

We have recently received an update on this issue from Dr Clare Bannon, Deputy Chair, General Practitioners Committee (GPC) England, the main points of note being as follows:

- The publication of practice level appointment data will be included in the dashboard for Integrated Care Boards (ICBs), with access available to Primary Care Networks (PCNs), which will allow the data to be compared between practices.
- The information being released is:
 1. Time between booking and appointment date
 2. Appointment mode
 3. Healthcare professional (HCP) type (GP, Other or Unknown are the 3 choices)
 4. National Appointment category
- The GPC has raised concerns with NHS Digital and NHS England (NHSE) that this data is insufficient to draw any conclusions about what is being offered by individual practices. In particular, the reality that significant numbers of patients are seen by experienced clinicians that are not GPs, all of whom are aggregated in the data. They informed GPC that there would be caveats in the data making this explicit.
- NHSE has agreed that this data should not be used in a punitive way, but support of outliers should always be in consultation with LMCs. GPC has asked that this is communicated clearly to ICBs.
- In terms of public access to this information a usable dashboard is planned for April 2023, although the raw data in tabular form was published at the end of November.
- There is no minimum number of appointments practices must provide as the manner in which practices deliver care is for practices to decide. However, the British Medical Association (BMA) has produced guidance on [Safe working in general practice](#) and [Workload control in general practice](#).
- NHSE and the BMA have produced guidance [More accurate general practice appointment data](#).

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**MANDATORY TRAINING ON
LEARNING DISABILITY AND AUTISM**

Concerns have been raised that a recent [NHS England Primary Care Bulletin](#) references ‘[The Oliver McGowan Mandatory Training on Learning Disability and Autism](#)’.

The General Practitioners Committee (GPC) has clarified that this is one form of training available, but undertaking this specific training is NOT mandatory. There is a requirement under the [Health and Care Act 2022](#), that all practices ensure their staff have training on Disability and Autism appropriate to their role.

The Secretary of State for Health is required to set out a Code of Practice detailing the requirements. This has not yet been published and is expected in 2023. Until then practices should not be pressured to undertake specific training and should decide what training is appropriate for their staff.

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**ACCESS TO GP PRACTICES:
SECURITY ALERT**

We have been made aware of an incident of people gaining access beyond the practice reception without authorisation. It was noted that the people involved worked as a team to be able to distract the reception staff and steal items from a room beyond reception, then leave the practice via the fire exit.

Practices may wish to review their security policies and procedures in terms of people being able to inappropriately access areas beyond reception.

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**TRAVEL MEDICATION
AND VACCINATIONS**

Following recent correspondence with airlines regarding their requests for medical information to be provided by GPs (noted in the November LMC newsletter), the British Medical Association (BMA) has updated their guidance [Travel medication and vaccinations](#).

The guidance also covers which travel vaccinations are included in General Medical Services (GMS) and which are not.

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GP TRAINEE VISAS

The British Medical Association (BMA) continues to call for a permanent solution to barriers to staying and working in the UK currently faced by GP Trainees as they approach completion of their training. In October 2022, the BMA wrote to Home Secretary Suella Braverman, to urge her to act and work with colleagues in the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) to deliver a permanent solution.

Conservative MP Matt Warman led a [Westminster Hall Debate](#) on international doctors’ visas on 2 November, during which he called on the Home Office and DHSC to work together on a lasting solution to the issue in the best interests of the NHS workforce and patient care. Ahead of the debate, General Practitioners Committee (GPC) England Deputy Chair, Kieran Sharrock, and members of the Public Affairs team briefed Mr Warman, and he drew on the work of the BMA on a number of occasions. During the debate, Immigration Minister, Robert Jenrick, gave the clearest indication yet that the Government was willing to look at umbrella sponsorship as a potential solution. The BMA has since [written](#) to the Minister directly on the issue and have made clear the BMA’s willingness to be included in conversations with the Home Office on this.

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**HEALTH EDUCATION ENGLAND (HEE)
TRAINING CONTRACT**

It has been brought to the attention of the General Practitioners Committee (GPC) that training practices are being asked to sign a [HEE training contract](#). As the GPC did not have input into the development of this contract, they are currently in the process of reviewing the contents. Practices who have not already signed and are unsure about doing so are being advised by the GPC to either seek their own advice or wait for a further update from the GPC.

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TRAINING RESOURCES FOR GP PRACTICE STAFF

In view of difficulties knowing what mandatory and statutory training GP practice staff should do, the British Medical Association (BMA) has produced guidance [Training resource for GP practice staff](#), which provides an overview in the following areas:

- Mandatory and statutory training for clinical staff
- Safeguarding vulnerable adults
- Basic life support
- Fire safety
- Manual handling
- CQC and GMC viewpoints
- Mental capacity act and deprivation of liberty safeguards
- Safeguarding vulnerable children
- Infection control
- Health and safety
- First aid

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IMPACT OF THE GOVERNMENT'S AUTUMN FISCAL STATEMENT ON DOCTORS

The British Medical Association (BMA) has created a [briefing](#) analysing the impact of the Government's autumn fiscal statement on doctors. The statement details the Government's plans for tax and public spending over the next 5 years. The main things that will impact doctors are:

- Commitment to publish a workforce plan in 2023, including independently verified forecasts for the number of doctors and other health professionals over the next 15 years - which the BMA has been campaigning for.
- GP contractors and other employers will face higher costs due to increasing staff costs (frozen employer NICs thresholds and higher minimum wages) and other costs such as energy bills.
- Changes to personal tax policy will reduce the take home pay of all workers, including doctors.
- Overall, the cost-of-living crisis and dire economic picture will increase poverty and impact health, increasing pressure on the health system.

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PRIMARY CARE COACHING

Article submitted by the Looking After You Programme Team, NHS England (NHSE)

We are keen to support our primary care staff to stay well, recognising the additional pressures and challenges that the winter period brings. Please see our updated [Looking After You coaching](#) communications toolkit and [promotional poster](#).

All the promotional resources can be downloaded here: www.bit.ly/LAYcomms.

The toolkit outlines our suite of support offers, why coaching is recommended, feedback from users, and highlights the many promotional resources that can be used, including bulletin copy and social media graphics.

Additional support offers can be found at [NHS England » Support available for our NHS people](#).

Looking After You offers are free, confidential and available to all NHS staff working in Primary Care.

If you have any further questions please contact england.lookingafteryou@nhs.net.

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SUPPORTING PHYSICIAN ASSOCIATE SUPERVISORS IN PRIMARY CARE

*Article submitted by Ria Agarwal, Lead Physician Associate,
South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw Faculty for Advanced Clinical Practice*

FAO GPs supervising Physician Associates: please complete this 1 minute / 3 question survey on how the Physician Associate team from the Faculty for Advanced Clinical Practice could support you further as a supervisor:

<https://forms.gle/9kYXbUQnkbmf6R4N7>.

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**CARE QUALITY COMMISSION (CQC)
CLINICAL SEARCHES SURVEY**

The CQC developed a suite of clinical searches, initially in response to the pandemic, which are now routinely used when carrying out inspections of GP practices. They were designed to focus on areas of clinical importance. The majority of the searches focus on safe prescribing, monitoring of higher risk drugs, management of long-term conditions and identification of potential missed diagnoses.

CQC is undertaking a survey to identify how useful / easy to use these searches have been. Practices are encouraged to complete the anonymous survey [here](#).

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**CARE QUALITY COMMISSION (CQC)
MYTHBUSTERS**

CQC National Clinical Advisors and Policy Team issue [guidance](#) to clear up some common myths about CQC inspections, as well as sharing guidance on best practice, which practices may wish to be aware of. The following Mythbuster has been added or updated recently:

- [GP mythbuster 12: Accessing medical records during inspections](#)

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**SESSIONAL GPs E-NEWSLETTER:
DECEMBER 2022**

The latest edition of the Sessional GPs e-newsletter can be found on the British Medical Association (BMA) website [here](#). The main articles include:

- Training for Employed and Self-employed GPs
- Annual leave – approaching the holiday season
- Relaxation of restrictions on in-hours GP work by Doctors on GP retention team
- Enhanced shared parental leave for Salaried GPs
- GP Trainee Visas

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**LMC OFFICE
CHRISTMAS / NEW YEAR OPENING 2022/23**

Please note the changes to the times when the LMC office telephones will be staffed over the Christmas / New Year period:

- Monday 26 December: Office closed
- Tuesday 27 December: Office closed
- Wednesday 28 December: 9 am to 5 pm
- Thursday 29 December: 9 am to 5 pm
- Friday 30 December: 9 am to 5 pm
- Monday 2 January: Office closed

Usual office hours will resume on Tuesday 3 January 2023 - further details can be found [here](#).

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Please forward any articles for inclusion in the LMC newsletter to
manager@sheffieldlmc.org.uk

Submission deadlines can be found [here](#)

Contact details for Sheffield LMC Executive can be found [here](#)
Contact details for Sheffield LMC Secretariat can be found [here](#)



Sheffield LMC's free peer to peer mentoring, coaching and signposting for General Practice. GP-S is free and open to all represented Sheffield GPs. More information can be found [here](#).