



# West Pennine

## Local Medical Committee

Representing and supporting GPs in  
Glossop, Oldham & Tameside

### November 2025 UPDATE FROM YOUR LMC



Dr Amir Hannan, Chair



Dr Alan Dow, Secretary/  
GM GPC Representative



Dr Mark Wilshire- Vice Chair



Jane Hill, LMC Liaison Officer/  
GP Practice Data Protection Officer

### AGM – 11<sup>th</sup> November 2025

The West Pennine LMC AGM took place on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2025. Proceedings were opened with an informative and practical Yoga for GP resilience session, then Dr Samira Anane, BMA-GP Committee Deputy Chair was the keynote speaker, and she shared her insight into the current national picture for General Practice. She explained that the BMA are currently in dispute with the Government due to the implementation of open-ended online access without putting the necessary safeguards in place first.

In past years, GP of note awards have been given out; this year it was decided that the outstanding work of secondary care colleagues should be recognised. A department of note award was presented to the Vascular Studies Department at Tameside & Glossop ICFT, and an individual of note award was given to Shirley Partington who recently retired after more than 50 years of service with the Vascular Studies Department.

## **BMA – LMC England Conference**

The recent LMC England conference took place on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> November at the Northern Royal College of Music in Manchester. Dr Katie Bramall Stainer - BMA GP Committee Chair shared an excellent opening speech, which can be viewed here:

### **[Watch a clip of my speech](#)**

The current dispute around the lack of any safeguards to mitigate patient harm with recent online access changes, and the broken government promise over a new GMS contract were discussed, with motions calling for GPC England to prepare for mass non-compliance, onward balloting of the profession, and collection of undated resignations of practice contracts.

## **Useful resources for practices in Oldham:**

Dr Mark Wilshere – LMC Vice Chair and GP Partner at Quayside Medical Practice has collated the following useful contacts for practice teams in Oldham:

### **Mental Health**

- ✓ i-thrive - directory of services for mental health which may be helpful - <https://www.actiontogether.org.uk/ithrive-directory-services-children-and-young-peoples-mental-health-oldham>
- ✓ Riding the Rapids - for parents and carers of children with autism or severe learning disabilities. 10 week course. 2hrs a week. Started September 2025.
- ✓ Safe Haven decommissioned but now we have Listening Space at the MINF office allowing drop in for MH crisis - great alternative to A&E if not suicidal. [www.togmind.org/listening-space](http://www.togmind.org/listening-space)

### **MSK**

- ✓ Salford spinal team doing pilot in Oldham which Oldham plan to continue. MDT style assessments with spinal surgeon, physios and psychologists to help. Started in Oldham as we are the highest referral area. Hope to tackle issues of patients dealing with their pain longer term and that surgery and scans not suitable for most and can hear it from surgeons' mouth if needed!

**Cont'd**

### **Freedom to Speak Up Guardian**

The National Guardian's Office and the role of the Freedom to Speak Up Guardian were created in response to recommendations made in Sir Robert Francis QC's report "[The Freedom to Speak Up](#)" (2015). These recommendations were made as Sir Robert found that NHS culture did not always encourage or support workers to speak up, and that patients and workers suffered as a result.

Although it is not compulsory, the National Guardian's Office expects primary care organisations to appoint a Freedom to Speak Up Guardian and this is something the CQC will look for. As a way of further supporting you and your practice team, Jane Hill has been appointed as Freedom to Speak up Guardian for LMC member practices. We have attached an updated policy and poster for your records and if you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

[westpennine.lmc@nhs.net](mailto:westpennine.lmc@nhs.net)

### **LMC Buyers Group Information**

In April, the Buyers Group launched a new members' portal to replace its old website. The portal allows members to view details about suppliers, request quotes and see which suppliers they've used over the last four years. The 2026-27 flu vaccine offers have recently been released and this information which includes pricing and how to order have been added to the members portal. If you haven't yet registered for access for the members' portal, you won't have been sent this important information.

To set up login details go to: <https://buying.plexusportal.co.uk/Register>. Please note that the email to set up your password is automated so may end up in your junk/spam folder so check there and mark the email as not junk/safe sender, so any future notifications go direct to your inbox. Over the next few months, the Buying Group will be offering free cost analyses to members so if you'd be interested in taking part look out for an email from the Buying Group's Jenni Brooks: Tel: 0115 979 6910

Email: [info@plexussupport.co.uk](mailto:info@plexussupport.co.uk)

Website: <https://www.plexussupport.co.uk>

### **Wellbeing resources for General Practice teams**

A range of wellbeing and support services are available to doctors, and we encourage anybody who is feeling under strain to seek support, such as the BMA's [counselling and peer support services](#), [NHS practitioner health service](#) and non-medical support services such as [Samaritans](#).

The organisation [Doctors in Distress](#) also provides mental health support for health workers in the UK. We have produced a [poster with 10 top tips](#) to help support the wellbeing of you and your colleagues.

The [Cameron Fund](#) supports GPs and their families in times of financial need and the [RCGP](#) also has information on GP wellbeing support.

## **Data Protection Office Update**

### **Libero.it Fraud email**

It has been brought to my attention that several practices in the West Pennine area have received emails in the lead GP's name, requesting that an invoice is paid. The sender's address is linked to Libero.it

If you receive a similar email, please do not open any links or attachments and please let me know [Jane.hilldpo@nhs.net](mailto:Jane.hilldpo@nhs.net)

### **AI Solutions in General Practice - Update**

The GM Artificial Intelligence Oversight group have recently confirmed that, after the careful evaluation of several ambient scribes, they can support the use of the following solutions:

- Heidi
- X-on Surgery Connect (powered by Tortus)
- AccuRx/Tandem.

### **Open Safely Data Provision Notice**

This is a national initiative, which will allow expansion to non-COVID19 analyses. Please note practices have to comply by law with the Data Provision Notice, however the data will not be able to be accessed until the GP Data Controller has signalled approval. Please be assured that OpenSAFELY has the full support of the BMA - GP Committee Digital Leads, as well as the support of the RCGP.

The NHS England website has been updated with clearer instructions regarding Open Safely: <https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/data-tools-and-services/data-services/opensafely/how-to-activate-access>

There is also a link to a 2-page "easy read" version of what OpenSAFELY is (<https://digital.nhs.uk/binaries/content/assets/website-assets/services/opensafely/the-nhs-opensafely-data-analytics-service.pdf>) including a link to a short video (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GRjRqOAlVy8>).

If you haven't already done so, please activate the service, note the national DPIA, update your privacy notice (suggested text is in the above web page) and update your Record of Processing Activity (ROPA).

If you require any further information, or have any Data Protection concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at [jane.hilldpo@nhs.net](mailto:jane.hilldpo@nhs.net)