

HEARTBEAT

APRIL 2022

WHAT'S INSIDE

02 LMC Chair Update

04 LMC Training Programmes
2022

03 The Rebuild General Practice
Campaign

03 GP Contract 22/23 update
BMA



Continued

In addition, they also discussed how these critical issues could be addressed through better workforce planning, reductions in bureaucracy and increased resources, alongside an honest public facing campaign explaining these pressures and outlining how NHS services and access, have changed following the pandemic.

Future of general practice Health Select Committee evidence

Dr Kieran Sharrock gave oral evidence on the future of general practice to the Health and Social Care Committee last week, where he told of the ongoing criticism and general negativity about GPs and general practice must end if the NHS wants to retain the doctors we have and recruit more.

He said: "One in five GPs has been the butt of abuse as a result of the recent campaign against general practice. Dialling down the rhetoric against general practice is really important if you want to retain and recruit GPs.

"We have to be honest with the public about what general practice is delivering now, not what it should be delivering - clearly a 10 or 20-year plan is needed for that, including a workforce plan – but at the moment we can't provide the care to the level we want to. We need the Government to support us and say, 'this is what your GP can do at the moment because of the rise in demand, the huge backlog and the loss of staff.'"

Read the [BMA press statement](#)

Dr Sharrock also met with Shadow Minister for Primary Care and Patient Safety, Feryal Clark MP. This week where he outlined the key aims of the BMA and GPDF's joint campaign to restore general practice. They discussed the impact of the ever growing workload, and falling numbers of GPs on both the health of doctors and patient safety.

Continued opposite.....

CHAIR UPDATE

Dear colleagues,

This is a time of change at the LMC. For those who don't know me I am David Ward Partner at the Middlewood Partnership in Eastern Cheshire and previously I was LMC Vice Chair. I now have the privilege of stepping into Stephen's shoes as your Chair. Stephen retired at the end of March and has supported colleagues in Cheshire as both LMC Chair, Vice Chair, Locality Lead and elected member for many years. He leaves us with our grateful thanks for his leadership and hard work over that time on behalf of all his colleagues in Cheshire.

I am pleased to confirm that Tiina Ashton, a partner in Frodsham, will be taking on my former role as LMC Vice Chair.

Branwen Martin, our Medical Director and another long serving LMC member, will be retiring later this year and we have appointed Daniel Harle from Macclesfield as her replacement. They will work together from 1st April for a handover period. Daniel is currently one of our two Associate Medical Directors and has been an active LMC for a number of years.

All this of course is happening at a very busy time for all practices with new NHS structures taking shape and new contract requirements being imposed on the profession. We have just issued to every Cheshire practice our interpretation of the key elements within the new requirements. At this time all the detailed specifications are not yet published but we will keep you updated on what we know. As always our office team of Julie and William and your local representative members are still available to help you with any questions, or provide advice on contract and practice issues. Please get in touch with us if we can help.

David Ward
LMC Chair



Fit Notes

In July 2021, the Government outlined plans to deliver fit note improvements including:

removing the requirement to sign fit notes in ink (from April 2022) and allowing a wider range of eligible professionals to sign fit notes in (planned for summer 2022).

embedding electronic fit notes in hospital systems are planned from spring 2022 and encouraging hospital doctors to issue fit notes to patients in their care will also further reduce the burden on GPs.

We are expecting further detail of these changes from the DWP over the coming weeks to enable awareness of and preparation for them and will update practices accordingly.

What did Cheshire's GP practices deliver every month in 2021?

Cheshire's GP practices conducted tens of thousands of face-to-face appointments every month in 2021

New figures reveal that Cheshire's GP practices conducted more than 167,000 face-to-face appointments every month in 2021 despite the ongoing challenges presented by the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

While playing a leading role in the county's COVID-19 vaccination programme, Cheshire's GP practices also conducted 108,000 telephone and video appointments, processed more than 20,000 referrals and issued more than 1.3 million prescriptions every month during 2021.

Throughout the pandemic Cheshire's GP practices have continued to respond to your healthcare needs, as well as playing a key role in the county's COVID-19 vaccination programme.

What did Cheshire's GP practices deliver every month in 2021?

167,000 Face-to-face appointments in General Practice	1,350,000 Prescriptions issued
108,000 Telephone and video appointments with General Practice	84,500 Prescriptions ordered using an online service
16,300 New patients registered	9,900 New 'online patients' registered for at least one online service
12,700 Fit notes issued	20,200 Referrals processed
12,300 Patients registered to access their records online	

Summary of GP Contract arrangements 22/23

As part of post pandemic recovery, the main focus of primary care will be long term conditions and chronic disease control, with vaccinations becoming a subset of activity.

Read the Summary [here](#)

GPDF March Newsletter

[Link](#) to the latest Newsletter which is now published on the GPDF website

In this edition you will find details of;

GPDF Strategy and priorities

The Review of Representative Structures currently underway
The 'REBUILD GENERAL PRACTICE' campaign which launched last week.

The consultation regarding a National Association of LMCs
Importance of Nominees (if your LMC does not have a Nominee)

THE 'REBUILD GENERAL PRACTICE' CAMPAIGN

Thanks to the many LMCs who have take part in the activity to develop the major campaign '[Rebuild General Practice](#)' which had its press launch on Monday 21st March. This included a [keynote speech](#) at The Kings Fund's offices from Dr Kieran Sharrock, supported by Dr Brian MacGregor and Dr Rachel Ward. Jeremy Hunt MP attended in support of the campaign.

Over 100 LMCs have engaged with the campaign team so far and have received access to a specifically created LMC 'toolkit' to enable local activity to complement and amplify the national campaign. This 'toolkit' contains advice, information, and various digital assets for LMC use, and for sharing with GPs in your area.

Over 20 GPs across England, Scotland and Wales have been specifically trained to be 'spokespeople' for the campaign with national, regional, and local media.

GPDF have jointly funded this campaign with the BMA and have ensured a clear focus on the contribution that LMCs can make.

The campaign will run until the end of June so there is plenty of time for the impact of this activity to grow over the coming months.

Visit the campaign website: [HERE](#)

Applications Open - Professional Education and Development (PED) Course 2022

Applications for the 2022 cohort of our Professional Education and Development Course. The Professional Education and Development course (PED) is a course run each year for GPs. PED is aims to help established GPs develop their management, resilience and leadership skills. It is supported by Health Education England for GPs in the previous North West and Mersey deanery areas. Participants are asked for a contribution towards the cost. The next course will start in September 2022. **CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS 30 JUNE**

[Link to complete the application form and submit online.](#)

[Advert](#)

[Further Information](#)

SESSIONAL GPS

Chester Sessional GP Group

Our next Journal club will be held via Microsoft Teams

Tuesday 26th April

From 7pm - 8.30 pm

New members welcome!

We are also seeking new committee members for Treasurer and Secretary, to ensure continuation of our group.

Contact Dr Sarah Lazarowicz if you would like to attend, email:- s.martys@nhs.net

COMING SOON!

We will be running a separate Pensions and Retirement session specifically for sessional GPs and locums which will follow on from the highly popular session we ran last year.

The sessions would be via MS Teams (length of sessions to be agreed) July 2022.

GP contract 2022/23 update BMA

A good summary of the contract from 1 April and gives practices an idea what to concentrate on.

View the slide deck [here](#)



IMPORTANT FOOTNOTE:

Our communication with your practice is extremely important to us.

If there have been any GP/Locum/Salaried GP/Practice Manager changes within your practice. Could you please email [Julie Hughes](#) with an update to ensure our distribution list is up to date.

CHESHIRE LMC TRAINING PROGRAMMES 2022

New to general practice programme: Personal and System Leadership Behaviours - LMC/PCC **Free evening online training programme**

Tuesday 8 February to Tuesday 11 October 2022 (8 sessions) (19.30-21.00)

PCC will provide a programme of stimulating sessions, led by coaches and trainers with significant experience in delivering leadership development programmes for clinical directors and other GPs and leaders across the country.

The training aims to further equip you to develop personal and leadership styles and is delivered in a coaching style which ensures a safe learning environment for participants to share and learn from one another. Sessions are a blend of information sharing, for instance change models and theory, personal reflection and group discussion. The programme will run with an informal action-learning set approach and you are encouraged to identify and commit to a takeaway from each session and 'report back' at the next session. This method allows the whole group to benefit from each individuals experiential learning.

For further information and to book your place <https://www.pccevents.co.uk/cheshirenewtogppracticeprogramme2022>

REGISTRATION OPEN

Cheshire LMC / PCC Virtual Annual GP Conference

Wednesday 18th May 2022 13:30 - 17:00

The [attached schedule](#) outlines the content of our annual GP conference for 2022 which will again be run on a remote platform. We have managed to include contributions from a great line up of key system leaders and we will explore GP engagement, system development and integrated working within the ever changing landscape of general practice and primary care. The programme is fully interactive with a 'conference look and feel', allowing delegates to hear from and question plenary speakers as well as interacting with one another in breakout rooms. Our last annual conference attracted over 80 attendees..... so don't miss out book early! [To register your place](#)

Premises Event LMC/PCC (EVENT NOW FULLY SUBSCRIBED)

Wednesday 27th April 10:00 - 16:00 'The Marquee' Nunsmere Hall Hotel, Sandiway, Northwich.

Pensions Sessions - COMING SOON!

As many GP partners come up for retirement, the importance for the retiring and the continuing partners to plan is essential for a smooth transition. This **free** LMC sponsored remote session will help both the practices and the partners coming up to retirement to plan for their futures as they part ways. We have brought together a primary care specialist team to lead our event:

Justin Cumberlege, a partner at Hempsons, James Gransby, a partner at RSM Accountants and Paul Gordon a partner and pension specialist at MacArthur Gordon.

- Justin will be highlighting issues in partnership deeds, and dealing with contracts, partnership assets and property
- James will be looking at the tax implications of retirement, your ongoing tax obligations, Capital Gains Tax rules and benefiting from reliefs; and
- Paul will explain the current NHS Pension arrangements, the impact of the changes from April 2022 along with The Annual Allowance, Lifetime Allowance and how and timing your retirement to best advantage.

Further details of both sessions will follow soon.

REGISTRATION OPEN!

GP Phoenix Programme - Cohort 3 (Free to attend)

Launch event 29th June 2022 12:30 - 16:30

Venue: Abbeywood Estate, Delamere, Northwich

- Thinking about what next in your GP career?
- Looking for some support to get you there?

Following the success of our previous 2 cohorts we are pleased to be running cohort 3!

The GP Phoenix Programme gives you the opportunity to take time out with peers to explore what is wanted from the next phase in your career, plan what to do and how and when to do it. You will also receive peer and professional support along the way.

For details of the programme view [here](#) where you will find dates/times of sessions and a few words from GP colleagues who have attended the previous programmes.