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| Cheshire Local Medical Committee Limited Minute No. 170 | |  | | --- | | June 25, 2025 | | 1:30pm – 5:00pm | | VENUE: Abbeywood Estate, Delamere, Northwich | |

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| Chair | Dr David Ward |
| In Attendance: Dr S Tam, Dr D Harle, Dr N Bishop, Dr D Chappell, Dr P Speake, Dr A Fletcher, Dr C Baker, Dr T Rigby, Dr J Norris, Dr A Fulton, Dr A London, Dr L Appleton, Dr N Paul, Dr P Bowen, Dr V Vernon,Dr S Morris, Dr Y Brindle, Dr D Jones, Mrs. S. Pownall, Mr. R. McLeod, Mrs. J Hughes Business Operations Manager. | |
| Virtual (MS Teams): **Observers/ Guest Speakers:** | Dr D. Snowden, Dr I. Camphor, Mr. W. Greenwood    Dr N. Paladugu GP Partner Middlewich Road Surgery  Dr Mirza Ashfields Primary Care Centre  Ella Clare Year 3 Medical Student Placement at Knutsford Medical Partnership  Russ Favager Board Senior Responsible Officer Leighton New Hospitals Programme  and Estates Redevelopment, Mid Cheshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust |
| Apologies: Dr D Ward, | Dr G. Kent, Dr S. Powell, Dr L. Neale, Dr S. Bharadwaj |

## Draft Minutes

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| **AGENDA ITEM 1** | **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION** |  | **CHAIR** |

* 1. The Chair welcomed those attending in person, via MS Teams and observers Dr Paladugu, Dr Mirza

and Ella Clare at the meeting.

**6.1 Agenda item brought forward to the start of the meeting.**

The Chair introduced Mr. Russ Favager, Board Senior Responsible Officer Leighton New Hospitals Programme and Estates Redevelopment, Mid Cheshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. Mr. Favager was invited to give an outline/progress summary of the planned new hospital construction at Leighton Hospital. This was followed with a Q&A session where members raised concerns on engagement with primary care at an early stage and GPs on any changed pathways and new models of care.

Mr Favager asked to hold him to account over the level of consultation over the next 6-12 months.

He agreed to come back to a future meeting in 12 months and provide a further progress update along with his colleague Clare Hammell Chief Medical Officer & Deputy Chief Executive Officer.

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| **Reference** | **Action** | **Owner** | **Deadline** |
| **6.1** | **Invite Russ Favager and Clare Hammell to a future meeting in 12 months.** | **Business Operations Manager** | **March 2026** |

**Members received the presentation and update.**

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| **AGENDA ITEM 2** | **DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS** | **Presenter:** | **CHAIR** |

**2.1** There were no updates to the declarations of interest.

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| **AGENDA ITEM 3** | **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** | **Presenter:** | **CHAIR** |

**3.1** Apologies received from Dr G Kent, Dr S Powell, Dr L Neale, Dr S Bharadwaj

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| **AGENDA ITEM 4** | **TO RECEIVE AND CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 21 MAY 2025** | **Presenter:** | **CHAIR** |

**4.1** Members were presented with the minutes of the last meeting held on Wednesday 21 May 2025 CLMC No. 169 (version 3) and the Chair asked if they were a correct record of the proceedings and sought approval to receive them.

**Members formally received the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 21 May 2025. The minutes were agreed and signed electronically.**

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| **Reference** | **Action** | **Owner** | **Deadline** |
| **4.1** | **The minutes (CLMC No. 169) signed electronically.** | **Business Operations Manager** | **26.6.25** |

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| **AGENDA ITEM 5** | **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES** | **Presenter:** | **MEDICAL DIRECTOR** |  | **MEDICAL DIRECTOR** |

**5.1 The Medical Director provided a brief update on the following items.**

* Smoking Cessation. The Medical Director reported he has written to the Medical Director of the ICB but had no response to date.
* Rapid access chest pain clinics update. Dr Harle updated the committee on the view of the ETC cardiology team that it was the responsibility of the referring GP to prescribe relevant cardiovascular medication prior to referral to a rapid access chest pain clinic. The committee discussed this response and felt that prescribing responsibility would depend on the clinical circumstances and agreed that Dr Harle would take this view up further with the CE Place Medical Director and ECT.
* Medical Examiner Service. The Medical Director reported he attended a webinar organised by NHSE Northwest on 24 June. Other committee members also attended the webinar. It was agreed that there were more questions to be raised, and it was agreed that the ME would be invited to attend a future LMC Committee meeting to discuss further.
* Chief Executive reported that the Business Operations Manager was in the process of arranging a meeting with the local Medical Examiners and LMC Exec Team.

**Members received the updates from the Medical Director and noted further actions.**

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| **Reference** | **Action** | **Owner** | **Deadline** |
| **5.1** | **Rapid access chest pain clinics. Follow up with CE Place Medical Director and ECT.**  **Invite the local Medical Examiners back to a future county meeting.** | **Medical Director**  **Business Operations Manager** | **June 2025**  **July 2025** |

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| **AGENDA ITEM 6** | **HOT TOPICS** | **Presenter:** | **CHAIR/CHIEF EXECUTIVE/ MEDICAL DIRECTOR** |

**6.2 Cheshire LMC unfunded work review and next steps.**

The Medical Director introduced the update on agreed actions and confirmed that all communications have been agreed with the BMA and issued to other parties plus all Cheshire practices and PCNs with the templates to allow for the 3 months’ notice to be given. Questions were invited from members and they were asked to agree to actions.

Dr Bishop noted that USS Doppler was missing from the list for South Cheshire and she understood practices are planning to stop them.

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| **Reference** | **Action** | **Owner** | **Deadline** |
| **6.2** | **Stopping USS Doppler was left of the list for Cheshire South. List needs updating.**  **May be helpful to send a reminder to practices re 3 months’ notice with a note of the amendment that USS Doppler to South Cheshire list has been added.** | **Medical Director**  **CEO/Business Operations Manager** | **July 2025**  **July 2025** |

**Members received the update.**

**6.3 CW AVS LES**

The Medical Director introduced this item in the absence of Dr Powell. Following discussion, it was agreed that a letter should be sent to the ICB. Dr Powell had prepared a draft and this would be finalized with him before issue.

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| **Reference** | **Action** | **Owner** | **Deadline** |
| **6.3** | **Medical Director to finalise the ICB letter with Dr Powell.** | **Medical Director/ Dr Powell** | **30.6.25** |

**6.3.1 Weight Loss Injections via General Practice**

The recent NHSE details of weight loss injections was raised. The BMA/GPC had been shared with practices. The Medical Director believes the work will be completed at PCN level but local federations/collaborations will hold the contract. The funding seems higher in Cheshire than other areas.

**Members received the updates and agreed actions.**

**6.4 Discussion on ICB proposal for GLP-1**

Discussed as part of agenda item 6.3.

**Members received the update.**

**6.5 West Cheshire ICB/Place GP Plus LES Proposal**

The Medical Director initiated discussion on this item and said that a document had been previously shared with members together with LMC comments and partial replies from the ICB Place Team. He was seeking members’ views and questions before a final response was sent. Following group discussion, members’ concerns were.

* Clarification on funding overall and differences between patches in Cheshire West. Concerns re lack of defined uplift mechanisms continued.
* The funding arrangements for dressings needed revisiting. The previous benchmarking system was out of date.
* Clarification needed on what process had been completed to determine if the ask for practices is appropriate for the funding to be offered?
* What was the LMC strategy with any challenges to GP Plus given that overall, LES discussion will not occur until September at the earliest. Do we push for a pause on in year changes until later in the year?
* Intervention from Paul Bowen on how this discussion applies to other LES arrangements across Cheshire. Acceptance that the next stage following push back of unfunded work is the ongoing evaluation regarding existing LES services.

The Chair suggested that this is to be a separate agenda item at the next meeting in September and between now and the next meeting a discussion is needed between LMC members as to what is the appetite to renegotiate.

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| **Reference** | **Action** | **Owner** | **Deadline** |
| **6.5** | **Note agenda item for the September meeting.** | **Business Operations Manager** | **September 2025** |

**Members formally received the document.**

**6.6 Challenges faced with keeping dispensing practices open.**

The Chair introduced this item and said that the LMC had received notice from the ICB of the agreed closure of the dispensary at Kelsall Medical Centre and he invited Dr Baker to outline the current challenges and risks that dispensing practices face in keeping services viable in rural areas. Following Dr Baker’s update, member questions were invited and an action agreed as below.

* LMC to look at how it may support / advise dispensing practices moving forward. Medical Director to contact Dr Kent to discuss.

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| **Reference** | **Action** | **Owner** | **Deadline** |
| **6.6** | **Update at the next County meeting on what support/organisations are in place to support dispensing practices and if the LMC can do more. Medical Director to contact Dr Kent to discuss.**  **Share list contacts of Dispensing practices.** | **Medical Director**  **Business Operations Manager** | **July 2025**  **July 2025** |

**Members received and thanked Dr Baker for her update.**

**6.7 Howbeck Healthcare AI Guidance.**

Following Dr Paul’s last presentation and sharing the Howbeck Healthcare document, Dr Paul was invited to present his further thoughts. His summary outlines best practice procedures for the implementation and governance of Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools used to support clinical consultations.

The aim should be to ensure ethical use, legal compliance, patient trust, and enhanced administrative efficiency, without compromising clinician autonomy or patient care quality. This applies to all clinical and administrative staff involved in the use, governance, and oversight of AI systems within consultation settings. The AI systems addressed were non-decision-making tools used for functions such as transcription, summarisation, and coding.

The Chair gave thanks to Dr Paul for his insightful and clear presentation.

**Members received the details and tanked Dr Paul for his further input on the subject.**

**6.8 Private GP work**

The Chair introduced an introductory discussion on the topic following approaches from several GP practices and was looking to get a steer from the committee as to what formal view the LMC should develop and adopt. The Chief Executive will write out for questions from Cheshire practices ahead of the September meeting. There were one or two brief questions about what could be provided, including premises issues, IT and staffing.

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| **Reference** | **Action** | **Owner** | **Deadline** |
| **6.8** | **Write out seeking questions from practices ahead of the September meeting.**  **LMC to look at how it may support/advise practices moving forward.** | **Chief Executive**  **Chief Executive/Medical Director** | **July 2025**  **July 2025** |

**6.9 Development of Integrated Neighborhood Teams**

Agenda item deferred to the September meeting. It was still early days and the NHS 10-Year Plan had still not been published. Expected in early July. ICB Place Teams appeared to be under pressure from NHSE to start implementation quickly. BMA general advice to practices was expected shortly.

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| **Reference** | **Action** | **Owner** | **Deadline** |
| **6.9** | **Development of Integrated Neighborhood Teams. Agenda item for the September meeting.** | **Business Operations Manager** | **September 2025** |

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| **AGENDA ITEM 7** | **CHESHIRE & MERSEYSIDE ICS GENERAL PRACTICE FORUM FEEDBACK** | **Presenter:** | **Dr BOWEN & Dr FLETCHER** |

7.1 Dr Bowen raised the issue of LMC led renegotiation of LESs. The Chief Executive outlined some of the issues in doing this but principally the need to have full backing by all practices to support the LMCs negotiating hand. The LMC needed to understand what risk practices would be willing to take in agreeing what they would / would not do (i.e. serve notice on some LESs if ICB or Place Team is unwilling to uplift fees. The LMC would use the October 2024 Unfunded Work and LES survey as a baseline. The Medical Director noted that the LMC had decided to initiate the pushback of unfunded work as the first phase of its negotiating strategy. Once that was embedded, phase two would focus on the LES issue. It was agreed that the Medical Director and Chief Executive would define/agree LMC strategy and discuss it further at the next meeting.

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| **Reference** | **Action** | **Owner** | **Deadline** |
| **7.0** | **Define/agree LMC strategy. Internal Exec discussion needed.** | **Medical Director/Chief Executive** | **July 2025** |

**Members received Dr Bowen and Dr Fletcher’s update and agreed for the Medical Director and CEO to lead on this topic.**

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| **AGENDA ITEM 8** | **GPC UPDATE** | **Presenter:** | **GPC REPRESENTATIVE** |

**8.1** Dr Camphor gave a brief update on national contract negotiations. He said there was not much new to add at this point. He noted that details are expected next week of a change to the way practice global sum funding is established replacing the Carr-Hill formula. He also briefly referenced the expected publication of the NHS 10-year plan and the two primary care contract options being expected in it.

**Members received the update from the GPC Representative.**

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| **AGENDA ITEM 9** | **SESSIONAL GP MATTERS** | **Presenter:** | **DR TAM** |

**9.1** Dr. Tam gave a brief update and commented on a successful GP Complaints Webinar held on the evening on 5th June with Dr Julia Riley Clinical Lead Primary Care (Cheshire West), Clinical Lead Mental Health (Wirral) and NHS Cheshire and Merseyside ICB with over 40 attendees on the webinar.

She reported there is a Development Programme for Sessional GPs to start in the Autumn 2025 ‘Pitch Perfect’ series of 5 workshops facilitated by Jo Clancy of Clandara Limited. Communications would be circulated to practices next week.

The broad programme was a series of 75-90-minute workshops via MS Teams in the evening.

• Getting into pole position

• Portfolio careers

• Personal brand and marketing documents

• How to nail an interview

• Tools for talking with the stakes are high

She further reported the excellent work within the two First5 GP groups and that some additional money from the East Cheshire budget had been obtained by the Training Hub but unfortunately there was no further funding for the West. The Chief Exec said he would look again at possible LMC monies for the group in West Cheshire.

**Members received Dr Tam’s report and update and thanked the Education group for their work supporting GPs.**

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| **AGENDA ITEM 10 GP REGISTAR MATTERS** | **REGISTRARS MATTERS** | **Presenter:** | **Dr VERNON** |

**10.1** There was nothing to report from Dr Vernon.

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| **AGENDA ITEM 11** | **COMMITTEE MATTERS** | **Presenter:** | **CEO** |

**11.1 Representative vacancy Northwich**

The Chief Executive advised that in line with the constitution the LMC will formally declare a vacancy and seek nominations for the practices in question. One valid expression of interest has already been received.

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| **Reference** | **Action** | **Owner** | **Deadline** |
| **11.1** | **Follow up action regarding the Northwich vacancy. Write to all practices with a final call for nominations. If no others received the current valid nomination would be received and the outcome confirmed. Alternatively, an election would be called.** | **Business Operations Manager** | **14 July 2025** |

**11.2 England LMC Conference Friday 7 November at the Royal Northern College of Music, Manchester.**

The Medical Director reported on the England LMC Conference in Manchester on 7 November and invited expressions of interest at this point. He encouraged more members to attend these events and speak up and believes that Cheshire should be more vocal. Arrangements should be put in place to receive draft motions for consideration by the LMC. The Business Operations Manager had the details if anyone wished to consider a motion. Members were asked to send any expressions of interest to the Business Operations Manager by the end of July.

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| **Reference** | **Action** | **Owner** | **Deadline** |
| **11.2** | **Representative members to express interest in attending.**  **Business Operations Manager to write to all practices seeking draft motions.** | **All/ Business Operations Manager** | **July 2025** |

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| **AGENDA ITEM 12** | **FINANCIAL MATTERS** | **Presenter:** | **FINANCE DIRECTOR** |

**12.1 Financial Report**

In the absence of the Finance Director the Chief Executive presented the Committee’s financial performance for the period 1st April 2025 to 31st May 2025 (Month 2) and reported the balance of accounts for Handelsbanken current account to £43,799.29 and the deposit account had a reserve of £43,018.70. The NatWest Business Account balance was £10,120.00.

**Annual Accounts**

He reported that he had held meetings with the accountants to go through the detailed accounts line by line as in previous years. In line with the Committee’s previous decision to reduce our overall reserves to an acceptable level, to cover 3 months running costs the Executive Team had planned for a £60k ‘deficit’ in the budget in year for 2024/25 to reach this level. We appeared to be in line with that target. Details of the final accounts will be reported further at the September meeting.

**Budget Proposals for 2025/26**

(Dr Harle did not take part in this discussion but was not asked to leave the room)

As reported at the last meeting the LMC Directors carried out a review of the workload for the Medical Director role. The Chief Executive and the Directors (except the Medical Director) obtained details of the commitment and salary levels in other LMC areas. The role within Cheshire had historically been funded at a nominal 3 sessions per week for at least the last 11 years. Feedback from this exercise had been reviewed by the Directors and it was agreed that it would be appropriate to increase the number of sessions funded to 3.5 sessions per week (backdated to 1 April 2025 when the review was initiated) in recognition of the increased current level of work involved.

**Action: The Committee is asked to –**

i) note the financial position to 31 May 2025 and receive the report of the Finance Director

ii) note and agree with the decision of the Directors to increase the weekly sessional basis of the Medical Director role (from 3 to 3.5 sessions per week from 1 April 2025).

**Members formally received the report from the Chief Executive and financial position** **to 31 May 2025 (Month 2) and the Committee agreed on the action for the Medical Director uplift.**

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| **Reference** | **Action** | **Owner** | **Deadline** |
| **12.1** | **Update Afford Bond payroll with the Medical Director uplift and write confirming the details to the Medical Director.** | **Chief Executive/Business Operations Manager** | **June 2025** |

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| **AGENDA ITEM 13** | **CORRESPONDENCE** | **Presenter:** | **CHAIR** |

13.1. AOB – Anglia ICE reduced operating speed.

Colleagues in Cheshire East and West had reported that Anglia ICE was working at a significantly reduced speed over the past 3-4 days and that it was adding to the already increased GP daily working pressures. Dr Harle stated that he was aware of these concerns and had escalated via email to the Cheshire Place Primary Care Teams and the ICB Digital Lead. It was reported that the IT team attempting to define and resolve the problem. A WhatsApp poll was currently taking place to determine which practices were impacted. Dr Harle advised that he would follow up with the Place/IT teams to see when a resolution to the issues was going to take place. Dr Neil Paul asked if Anglia ICE was the most up to date system to provide this service. Dr Harle advised that he would follow this up with Kevin Highfield, the ICB Digital Lead.

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| **AGENDA ITEM 14** | **ANY OTHER BUSINESS** | **Presenter:** | **CHAIR** |

There was no other business to report.

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| **AGENDA ITEM 15** | **DATE, TIME, AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING** | **Presenter:** | **CHAIR** |

#### 15. 1 The next meeting of the Committee would be held on Wednesday 17th September 2025.

#### Venue: Nunsmere Hall Hotel.

#### Lunch would commence at 1:00pm. The LMC County Board Meeting to follow at 1:30pm.

#### (JH/WG (v3)

**Signed Dr David Ward \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**(Chair)**

**Signed William Greenwood \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**(Chief Executive and Company Secretary)**