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| Cheshire Local Medical Committee Limited Minute No. 168 | |  | | --- | | March 26, 2025 | | 1:30pm – 5:00pm | | VENUE: Nunsmere Hall, Oakmere, Northwich | |

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| Chair | Dr David Ward |
| In Attendance: Dr D Ward, Dr S Tam, Dr D Harle, Dr G Kent, Dr N Bishop, Dr S Powell, Dr F Kilby, Dr D Chappell, Dr P Speake, Dr A Fletcher, Dr S Morris, Dr C Baker, Dr T Rigby, Dr J Norris, Dr A Fulton, Dr S Bharadwaj, Dr A London, Dr Y Brindle, Dr L Appleton, Dr Neil Paul, Dr P Bowen, Dr L Neale, Mrs. S Pownall, Dr I Camphor, Mr. W Greenwood CEO, Mrs. J Hughes Business Operations Manager. | |
| Virtual (MS Teams): **Observers/ Guest Speakers:** | Dr D Snowden, Dr D Jones, Mr R McLeod.    Dr Graham Duce (guest speaker) |
| Apologies: Dr D Ward, | Dr V Vernon |

## Draft Minutes

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

* 1. The Chair welcomed those attending in person and via MS Teams.

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

**Prescribing Incentive Scheme Cheshire East and Cheshire West**

The Chair welcomed Dr Graham Duce to present to the committee details on the ICB Prescribing Incentive Scheme. Following his update, he welcomed members’ questions about the scheme, concerns and suggestions moving forward.

Questions / concerns raised by Members -

**Scriptswitch** – members feedback was it was difficult to use, slowed down computer speed, not compatible with the IT and the need to often reboot during surgery. The amount of time required for this on a day-to-day basis was not a good use of GP time. Dr Duce noted the concerns for feedback to the ICB team. He also reported that there would be a drop-in session demonstrating Scriptswitch.

Prescribing Efficiency (uplift) – this was used to ensure sure those metrics align to the ‘why’ and the ‘what’, and to hold practices to account on delivery.

**Incliseran** – The chair raised an issue around secondary care asking GPs to prescribe incliseron as an action from a clinic appointment. There is no reason why it couldn’t be provided in a secondary care setting, in particular within a specialist lipid clinic. In his view if GPs are to prescribe it there needs to be a mechanism in place to allow that to happen in a funded way. Cheshire LMC have undertaken a review of unfunded work.

Dr Harle said to the credit of Dr Duce, Janet Kenyon and the rest of their team they have involved the LMC in the process and taken on some of our concerns and that Dr Fulton, on behalf of the LMC, had been integral in supporting and trying to make some of those changes.

**Local Enhanced Services.** Dr Harle said moving forward we would need a committee decision, and it is important we have a committee voice on this. He noted members have had the opportunity to

speak with their practices and get their thoughts. Moving forward we would start to discuss other enhanced services. If we want change, we are going to have to say ‘No’ we are not supporting this. What we’re trying to do is use the influence of the LMC to persuade the Commissioner to commission these activities correctly so that practices can see whether or not it makes sense for them to deliver them.

**Members received the update by Dr Duce and thanked him for his attendance.**

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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** An apology was received from Dr V Vernon.

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| **AGENDA ITEM 4** | **TO RECEIVE AND CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 22 JANUARY 2025** | **Presenter:** | **CHAIR** |

**4.1** Members were presented with the minutes of the last meeting held on Wednesday 22 January 2025 CLMC No. 167 (version 2) 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 22 January 2025. The minutes were agreed and signed electronically.**

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| **Reference** | **Action** | **Owner** | **Deadline** |
| **4.1** | **The minutes (CLMC No. 167) signed electronically.** | **Business Operations Manager** | **28.3.25** |

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

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

* Requests from sexual health clinics for GPs to prescribe. A rural practice in West Cheshire had raised this item previously. The Medical Director reported we are trying to get sight of the template letter and push back once we’ve seen it. He will have an update at the next meeting.
* East Cheshire DCS. After further local discussion and reflection on possible outcomes it had been decided to pause further action on this issue at present.
* Medical Examiner Service/Coroner’s Office. This was related to direct approaches the coroner has been taking regarding some referrals and issuing death certificates. This was a reported issue in Cheshire and Merseyside and nationally. The ICB has arranged some education events with the coroner and medical examiner service. As far as the direct approach that was being raised, we were addressing this in the background. Members are encouraged to keep feeding examples back to the LMC Medical Director. The Medical Director will write to the Medical Examiner and invite them to a future LMC meeting.

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| **Reference** | **Action** | **Owner** | **Deadline** |
| **5.1** | **ME Service/Coroner. Members are encouraged to keep feeding examples back to the Medical Director.**  **The Medical Director to write to the Medical Examiner with an invitation to a future LMC meeting.** | **Members**  **Medical Director** | **Ongoing**  **April 2025** |

* Oliver McGowan Training. The BMA position (2023) had been shared and then there was an update in February this year. There is no movement from the ICB on funding. The Medical Director said he was not getting much feedback from practices that this was an issue and asked members for their thoughts.
* Rapid access chest pain clinics. This is taking some time to work through and is being followed up by Dr Paul Bishop at the Interface Meeting. The Medical Director had contacted Manchester LMC to see if they had approved any pathways and was awaiting a reply.
* Smoking cessation prescribing. The LMC had been advising practices so they can push back on this. The Commissioners were in contact with the LMC and asking that we share examples of what is happening in other areas. Hopefully, we can move forward, and they can find some funding for GPs to do it.
* Weight loss injections. Pharmacies are asking for practices to prescribe. We have a template to share with practices to push back on these requests, but we were waiting on a BMA legal view which we had requested. Further advice to practices would be issued.

• 111 Weight loss injections. We met with Dr Jonathan Griffiths last week and the ICB wants to work with the LMC to ensure that as a system we agree to the pathway. This is about saying if your practice is near/ at capacity e.g. amber or red. Dr Harle said members need to decide - do we want to continue with this as it will open scrutiny for practices and if we don’t do it the wider system is never going to really recognize the underfunding and consequences that can happen because of our working over safe capacity levels. He was interested to hear members’ views. Members discussed and agreed not to do pause further action on this.

**Members noted and received the update from the Medical Director.**

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

**6.1 Prescribing Incentive Scheme**

Dr Duce had given an update earlier in the meeting.

**6.2 National GMS contract 1 April 2025**

The Chair introduced the next part of the meeting with a discussion around the national GMS contract, the negotiation process around the contract and subsequent discussions locally. He wanted to hear members’ thoughts.

The national contract for April 2025 – March 2026 had been negotiated between GPC England and NHS England. It had been formally endorsed by GPCE and Dr Camphor had been a voting member at that meeting. Dr Camphor confirmed that the contract was agreed although it wasn’t unanimous. He had voted against acceptance along with a minority of the members. Dr Camphor gave his views on the contract and its good and bad points. He also gave a brief update on the Special LMC Conference held on 27th February which he attended. He answered questions on his concerns about the new contract.

The Chair opened questions for Dr Camphor and invited discussion and comments from members, who prior to the meeting had been asked to gather views from their local practices. Many speakers voiced the concerns of practices locally regarding the contract, particular mention was made of the general level of the increase in funding, the impact of the employers’ national insurance and minimum wage rises. The proposed £20 fee for Advice and Guidance was also debated and felt to be low for the potential work it might bring. The Chair noted that we needed to keep feeding back our concerns to the GPCE Executive particularly over the next 6 months. He believed that they wanted to hear our concerns.

In response to a question the Committee indicated that they had faith in the GPCE Executive to continue to negotiate and get the best deal available. There was agreement that we needed a new/ reset GMS contract for England that can be negotiated in the next two years.

Outside the national contract it was formally agreed to keep the pressure on with local collective action and follow BMA safe working. The Chair said he had met with Dr Samira Anane, Deputy Chair, GPCE and shared our concerns with her. He reported that GPCE is open to members who would want to share their financial figures and feed them to consider and reflect in future negotiation.

The Chair summarised the discussions and suggested it would be good to invite Samira Anane back to a future meeting.

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| **Reference** | **Action** | **Owner** | **Deadline** |
| **6.2** | **Invite Samira Anane back to a future LMC meeting.** | **CEO** | **April 2025** |

**6.2.1 Cheshire LMC Survey of unfunded work**

The Medical Director updated Members on the survey and exercise that he and William Greenwood had undertaken and collated. They had met with small LMC task groups in each of the four historical CCG areas of Cheshire to look at examples of unfunded work and make recommendations on push back. IT was necessary now to reach an agreement from the Committee on this piece of work and to move forward with advice to practices and the ICB system partners. Copies of the working group proposals were shared at the meeting.

**Agreed actions Cheshire Wide** (LMC agreed to advise practices to cease the following unless noted otherwise)

* Incliseran – but need a BMA legal view
* 24-hour ECGs
* Health monitoring for pts under eating disorder services
* Feno testing
* MGUS blood tests – (potentially also lymphoma monitoring)
* Cinapsis
* Testosterone prescribing
* Transgender patient monitoring/prescribing
* Border hospital requests i.e. bloods, referrals - (+imaging)
* Reminder to practices current collective actions and push BMA safe working guidance. (as national collective action is over remind practices about local action re safe working, pushing back on unfunded and poorly funded work)
* Data sharing – Dr Paul to give update re-experiences at Ashfields. Follow up further at the next meeting. Still important as practices are data controllers

**In Addition**

**Agreed action East Cheshire practices**

* MDT Outreach - Cardiology/Heart Failure – needs further consideration as part of Caring Together Contract

**Agreed action South Cheshire practices**

* ADHD care for patients aged 6-18 - yes
* Wound care – suture/clip removal – needs further discussion
* ECGs
* Spirometry
* 24 hr bp
* Fitting and changing of ring pessaries
* PSA
* Prostap injections (or equivalent)

**Agreed action West Cheshire**

* ADHD care for patients aged 6-18
* 24-hour ECGs
* Wound care if not signed up for CQUIN – needs further discussion, some practices pulling out of CQUINN
* 24 hr BPs
* Ring pessaries
* PSA monitoring
* Prostap injections (or equivalent)
* Dopplers ABBPI

**Agreed action Vale Royal**

* ADHD care for patients aged 6-18
* Wound care – as per West Cheshire
* 24-hour ECGs
* 24 hr BPs
* ECGs
* Spirometry – Vale Royal has local service
* PSA monitoring
* Prostap injections (or equivalent)
* Dopplers ABBPI

**Following further debate and discussion Members received Dr Harle’s summary and proposals and agreed actions.**

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| **Reference** | **Action** | **Owner** | **Deadline** |
| **6.2.1** | **Write out to practices to provide advice on unfunded work and LMC position**  **Write to ICB, Place Teams and NHS Trusts if appropriate** | **CEO** | **April 2025** |

**6.3 Special LMC Conference 19 March 2025 (Feedback from delegates)**

Received as part of earlier discussions.

**6.4 Discussion on data sharing agreements**

Dr Paul gave a brief presentation on key issues to help members understand the key items to consider. The Chair referred to the secure data environment being pushed by the ICB, which he has concerns about. This was paused because of collective action but apparently the majority of practices in Cheshire signed up for it some time ago. Dr Paul advised members to check to see if they are signed up for it or not. Dr Paul, it was important to find out whether the ICB signed your practice on a separate data sharing agreement as a lot of the data sharing agreements are out of date and unclear in detail.

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| **Reference** | **Action** | **Owner** | **Deadline** |
| **6.4** | **If available share any updates at the May meeting.** | **Dr Paul** | **May 2025** |

**6.5 Feedback from Members Hot Topic Reports**

Deferred to the May meeting. In the meantime, Mr. Greenwood would feedback reported issues and LMC actions in the LMC feedback report to Members and all practices.

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| **Reference** | **Action** | **Owner** | **Deadline** |
| **6.5** | **Draft and issue standard feedback report on Hot Topics to LMC Members and all practices.** | **CEO** | **April 2025** |

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| **AGENDA ITEM 7** | **CHESHIRE & MERSEYSIDE ICS GENERAL PRACTICE FORUM** | **Presenter:** | **GPC REPRESENTATIVE** |

Deferred to the May meeting.

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

**8.1** Dr Camphor had given an update as part of an earlier agenda item.

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| **AGENDA ITEM 9** | **SESSIONAL GP MATTERS** | **Presenter:** | **VICE CHAIR** |

Deferred to the May meeting.

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| **AGENDA ITEM 10** | **GP REGISTAR MATTERS** | **Presenter:** | **CHAIR** |

Deferred to the May meeting.

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

**11.1 Conflict Resolution Training**

The Chair referred members to the email circulation of an offer for an LMC Member development session for LMC on Conflict Resolution Training. The session is to be delivered by Dr Clare Sieber via MS Teams on 11th June 2025. Members should contact Mrs. Hughes to register interest.

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

**12.1 Financial Report**

The Finance Director presented the Committee’s financial performance for the period 1st April 2024 to 28th February 2025 (Month 11) and reported the balance of accounts for Handelsbanken current account to £49,059.18, and the deposit account had a reserve of £63,018.70. The NatWest Business Account balance was £20,120.00.

The Finance Director reported the LMC’s cash at bank and reserves positions continued to remain healthy and were kept under regular review. We plan to dip into these in the next 12 months to support local ‘collective action’ work if required. The Committee was asked to receive the reported financial position 28th February 2025.

**Members formally received the report from the Finance Director and financial position** **to 28th February 2025 (Month 11).**

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

13.1. There was no correspondence to report.

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

14.1 The Chair gave his thanks to members for being respectful during discussions at the meeting. As a Committee we did debate items respectively and to arrive at a helpful position.

14.2 On behalf of the committee members the Medical Director presented Dr Kilby with a card and gift as it was her final LMC meeting due to her retirement from general practice and as a long-standing representative of the LMC (more than 12 years). He gave thanks to her for her commitment and dedication to the LMC and her time spent supporting local colleagues and practices.

Dr Kilby thanked the Committee for their kind wishes and the work done to support local GPs and their teams.

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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 21st May 2025.

#### Venue: Nunsmere Hall Hotel.

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

#### (JH)v3

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

**(Chair)**

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

**(Chief Executive and Company Secretary)**