

# LMC ViewPoint

*The newsletter of Leeds Local Medical Committee Limited*

*November 2021*

## **UPDATE FROM PUBLIC HEALTH** *Accurate 26/11*

The overall Covid 19 case rate in Leeds is broadly stable with a slight increase in the last 7 days. The largest increase in cases has been seen in the 4-11 year old age category, which mirror the cases being reported from primary schools across the city. Although Leeds is not an outlier either in the region or England as a whole, the situation continues to be dynamic and we continue to monitor it closely with partners. The Leeds infection rate is 316 per 100,000. For the region it is 387 and for England it is 415. The over 60s rate is 166.5. Covid patients in hospitals continue to reduce slightly, although pressures still remain on the system. There are cases in seven care homes, eight Early Years settings and seventy one schools across the city.

The vaccination rollout continues to be positive. 74.3% of the Leeds population have now been vaccinated once – over 585,000 people; and 68.3% have received two doses – over 536,000 people. Over 148,000 have had their booster which equates to 62% of those eligible (6 months after a second dose). The JCVI has advised that all healthy 16 to 17 year olds should be offered a second dose of the Pfizer vaccine, delivered through vaccination centres, community pharmacies and some GP led primary care network sites. The national booking service is now available. The booster and 16-17 year old web pages on the Leeds CCG web pages have the latest information and FAQs. Elland Road is expanded for health and social care staff, patients who are immune-compromised, delivering the out of school offer for 12-15 year olds and the general public. Thank you for the ongoing work from Primary Care networks and their health inequalities plan. This has a focus on increasing uptake in the age brackets with lower uptakes, including additional pop-up clinics rapidly deployed. Boosters are being offered at The Mount for Leeds and York Partnership NHS Foundation Trust, LTHT & Leeds Community Healthcare Partnership staff and LYPFT service users. Community engagement remains key with events taking place in communities with support from local organisations. This includes plans for pop-up clinics at primary schools, events to build confidence with lower uptake communities (including a Romanian event), adult English classes and working with translators to support conversations about the vaccine where appropriate.

A third case of the Omicron coronavirus variant has been detected in the UK. At this stage, there is no evidence of this new variant locally. We will continue to monitor this closely, as part of our broader local outbreak planning, and act accordingly should we find any cases. The government has set out measures in response to the variant, including mandatory face masks in shops and on public transport in England. The Department for Education is now advising pupils, staff and visitors in Year 7 and above to wear face coverings in communal areas of schools. The measure applies to education establishments in England including secondary schools, colleges and universities, as well as staff in childcare settings.

Under the rules coming in on Tuesday, 30<sup>th</sup> of November:

- Everyone entering the UK (other than those coming from the Common Travel Area that covers the Channel Islands and Ireland) will have to take a PCR test by the end of the second day after their arrival and self-isolate until they receive a negative result
- All contacts of suspected Omicron cases must self-isolate, regardless of whether or not they are fully vaccinated
- Face coverings will be made compulsory in shops and on public transport
- The health secretary has asked advisers to consider rapidly extending boosters, including reducing the gap between the second dose of the vaccine and the booster

The UK Government has responded to the new variant by moving six countries (South Africa, Botswana, Lesotho, Eswatini, Zimbabwe and Namibia) onto the red list for international travel from

midday on 26th November. Travellers returning from these countries will be required to quarantine and take PCR tests, full details of the requirements can be found on the Government website [here](#).

Our core public health messaging continues as it has been:

- Take the vaccination when you are eligible
- Wear a mask when indoors in enclosed spaces
- Ventilate where possible
- Take a lateral flow test in advance of mixing indoors
- Isolate and get a test if you have symptoms

Thank you for your help in passing these messages on for us.

### **Leeds General Practice Workforce Survey**

Over the summer, we carried out the first ever whole general practice workforce survey in Leeds. We are now able to share the findings of the survey with you in [this report](#). Thank you very much to everyone who completed the survey and please be assured that all responses remain anonymous. The sponsors of the report (NHS Leeds CCG, Leeds GP Confederation, Leeds LMC, Leeds Primary Care BAME Network) are committed to acting upon the findings and delivering a programme of improvement work.

There are some difficult themes emerging from the report regarding sexism, ageism, racism, verbal abuse, physical violence and work-related stress. We want to be open and transparent in sharing the report in full, recognising the challenges we collectively face and, working together to make positive changes to improve the working lives of general practice colleagues. One of the limitations of the report is a response rate of 17% (486 responses) and we need to keep this in mind and think about how we can improve participation in the future.

General Practice remains at the forefront of the health & care system in Leeds. It meets multiple challenges on a daily basis whilst being a dynamic and attractive place to work for many. There are some positive foundations to build from, in that the report finds that the vast majority of respondents look forward to going to work and feel trusted to do their work. In terms of next steps, we are developing a programme of work around the three pillars of: trust; enablement, and; job satisfaction. We are also looking to hold a follow up event and will announce our plans via this primary care briefing. We remain committed to general practice being a great place to work so that we can deliver the very best care to our patients.

Thank you,

Dr Simon Stockill, Medical Director, NHS Leeds CCG

Mr Jim Barwick, Chief Executive, Leeds GP Confederation

Dr Nicola Hambridge, Chair, Leeds LMC

Dr Mohammed Sattar, Chair, Leeds Primary Care Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Network

Dr Mariya Aziz, Deputy Chair, Leeds Primary Care Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Network

### **Health and Social Care Select Committee inquiry on the future of General Practice**

The Health and Social Care Select Committee has launched an inquiry focusing on the future of General Practice. It will examine the key challenges facing general practice over the next five years as well as the biggest current and ongoing barriers to access to general practice. They highlight that general practice has seen significant changes in recent years, such as the development of Primary Care Networks, and during the pandemic the way in which many patients interact with their local practice has changed substantially. This inquiry will explore specific issues including regional variation in general practice, the general practice workload, and the partnership model of general practice.

Leeds LMC has submitted a response to the inquiry. We have highlighted that general practice is the foundation on which healthcare services in the UK are delivered and on which the NHS is built.

Despite the current significant pressures practices remain very accessible to their patients but funding provided does not match the workload, leading to an overburdened and demoralised workforce. The historic failure to prioritise general practice has led to the problems we now face, with insufficient workforce or space in premises to properly respond to the needs of an increasing population, an ageing population with more complex needs and the shift in work from secondary to primary care. Long term commitment to increased investment in the workforce and premises is essential, as well as reducing bureaucracy and contractual micromanagement. This should build on the partnership model which has clearly demonstrated its flexibility, responsiveness and ability to innovate over the last few years. The increased multidisciplinary team being developed through PCNs is a positive change, but they need to be embedded in practices to be most effective.

### **General Practice impact on Climate Change – 7 December 2021**

The recent COP26 Climate Change conference highlighted again the urgent action we all need to take to address the climate crisis. General Practice has a role to play and we are therefore holding an important event to discuss what GPs and practices could do.

We will hear from national and local groups working on these issues and it will be an opportunity for us to discuss what actions we can take, as individuals, practices and as a wider health system.

This will be a face-to-face event at Weetwood Hall on Tuesday 7 December, 18:30-21:00. Please contact [mail@leedslmc.org](mailto:mail@leedslmc.org) to register to attend. The full agenda for the meeting is attached.

### **COVID-19 vaccination**

#### Booster vaccination for over 40s

The [Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation \(JCVI\)](#) has advised that all adults aged 40 to 49 years (cohort 10) should be offered an mRNA COVID-19 Vaccine booster 6 months after their second dose, irrespective of the vaccines given for the first and second doses.

#### Second doses for 16 and 17-year olds

The [JCVI has also advised](#) that all 16 to 17 year olds who are not in an at-risk group should be offered a second dose of the Pfizer vaccine. The second vaccine dose should be given 12 weeks or more following the first vaccine dose.

Note that for both of these group, it is on an opt-in bases, and provision to these groups won't be required if PCN groups want to just continue with existing provision.

Read the [guidance from NHSE/I on COVID-19 vaccination deployment for both groups](#).

Updates to the following PGDs and national protocols, for the COVID vaccination programme in England, have been published:

- [National protocol for COVID-19 mRNA vaccine BNT162b2 \(Pfizer/BioNTech\)](#)
- [National protocol for Comirnaty® COVID-19 mRNA vaccine](#)
- [Patient group direction for Comirnaty® \(Pfizer BioNTech\)](#)
- [Patient Group Direction for COVID-19 mRNA vaccine BNT162b2 \(Pfizer/BioNTech\)](#)

### **Vaccination Data Resolution Service (VDRS)**

The Vaccination Data Resolution Service (VDRS) has been established to resolve missing or incorrect vaccination records for people who are registered with a GP practice in England and who were vaccinated in England, Scotland or Wales. The primary aim of the VDRS is to ensure progression of the COVID-19 vaccination programme and ensure people's records are correct and allow recommended doses of the vaccination to be booked and received, including booster doses.

As well as people being able to access the service via 119, a system has been established whereby sites can access the VDRS to support vaccination record entry and queries. This service should also be used by sites if a person presents for vaccination and has missing vaccination

records relating to vaccine administered at sites elsewhere in England and requires sites to complete a form for the VDRS team to process.

For full information on how to access this service, please visit the VDRS page within the [COVID vaccinations tech and data workspace](#) on Future NHS. Register [here for a FuturesNHS account](#).

### **NHS COVID Pass for travel**

Patients in England are now able to use the NHS COVID Pass to demonstrate proof of their booster vaccination for international travel. Booster vaccination records can be accessed within the NHS App and online, by searching 'NHS COVID Pass' on [the NHS website](#). Boosters will show in the NHS COVID Pass within 5 days of receiving their booster vaccine.

You can direct any patient enquiries about boosters, including how to book a vaccination, to the NHS website or via the NHS 119 Service.

### **Lateral flow device testing guidance**

Government guidance has been updated moving away from recommending twice weekly testing to encourage the use of rapid lateral flow COVID-19 tests to manage periods of risk. This was first referenced in the Government's COVID-19 Response: Summer 2021, and most recently in the COVID-19 Response: Autumn and Winter Plan. Guidance across UKHSA has now been updated to reflect these changes and has been timed to coincide with the new 'Stop COVID-19 Hanging Around' campaign which encourages simple actions, and how they reduce the risks of catching COVID-19 this winter; such as ventilation, face coverings and testing.

### **Updated infection control guidance**

New [IPC \(infection prevention and control\) guidance](#) has been published by the UK Health Security Agency issued jointly by the Department of Health and Social Care, NHS England and the devolved nations' public health departments. It covers seasonal respiratory viruses and supersedes the previous COVID-19 specific guidance.

It recommends that face masks for staff and face masks/coverings for all patients and visitors should remain as an IPC measure within health and care settings over the winter period.

It also recommends that physical distancing should be at least one metre, increasing whenever feasible to two metres across all health and care settings, and that it should remain at two metres where patients with suspected or confirmed respiratory infection are being cared for or managed.

This follows the specific recommendations for changes to [IPC guidance in primary care](#) published last month. The guidance strongly emphasises that local decisions and risk assessments will determine whether a face-to-face consultation is appropriate and where physical distancing can be safely reduced. It is therefore for practices to determine the arrangements they have in the surgery.

### **TPP patient access to records**

Following the announcement that patients registered with TPP practices would be granted access to their records from December 2021 the initial rollout will now be delayed until April 2022 with time given to work with NHSX to ensure that it happens safely and with minimal disruption. This will then also apply to EMIS practices.

### **Interactive ESA 113 form**

The new interactive ESA 113 form, which healthcare professionals fill in if the Department of Work and Pensions asks for information in connection with Employment and Support Allowance or Universal Credit, has now been published. [Find out more >](#)

## **GP appointment data**

The [GP appointment data for October](#) shows an increase in the number of GP appointments, including those conducted face-to-face. Last month practices in England delivered over 4m more appointments than they did in September, a total of 33.9m in October, and over 3m more than they did in the same month pre-pandemic in 2019. Meanwhile, the number of people being seen face-to-face continues to rise, which underlines how wrong suggestions are that practices are closed and not seeing patients in person.

## **GP earnings declaration**

The Government have confirmed that they will delay both the submission and publication of earnings declarations until at least next Spring. With GPs facing some of the most intense pressures many have ever experienced, the plan to publish this information was always likely to be counter-productive. Crucially, these changes could have caused disruption over the winter period – distracting from the immediate priorities facing practices and their patients. We are pleased that the Secretary of State is delaying these plans, providing some breathing space for hard-working GPs.

## **Serious Shortage Protocol - atorvastatin 20mg chewable tablets**

Serious Shortage Protocol (SSP) for atorvastatin (Lipitor®) 20mg chewable tablets came into effect yesterday, 18 November in England and Wales. The SSP is currently scheduled to end on 12 January 2022. Read more on the NHS Business Services Authority's SSP [website](#).

## **QOF QI module guidance**

The RCGP has released two podcasts - [QOF QI module on learning disabilities](#) and [QOF QI module on early cancer diagnosis](#) – which explore the rationale for including each module in QOF in 2021/22, the purpose of participating in QOF and the intended objective and what practices have to do.

## **Safeguarding and Mental Capacity Act contact numbers for practices**

An up-to-date list of safeguarding contact numbers is available [here](#).

## **Leeds Greener Practice group**

Following the COP26 United Nations meeting in Glasgow to try to tackle climate change you may be wondering what you can do.

There is scope in General Practice to act to reduce our climate emissions and help the NHS work towards its' net zero Carbon goal.

Many of the changes we can make will benefit our patient's health as well as our staff's health and support planetary health.

At time when we are under many other pressures acting together to support each other to make these changes is essential which is why we want to start a local Greener Practice group.

<https://www.greenerpractice.co.uk/>  
<https://www.greenerpractice.co.uk/local-groups>

It doesn't matter if you are only just starting to think about this or if you have already implemented changes this group is open to all to support our journeys to improve patient care and planetary health.

If you are interested please send an email to Sally Franks( [sally.franks1@nhs.net](mailto:sally.franks1@nhs.net) ) to be added to our email group.

It would be great to have as many colleagues involved as possible.



## **GPDF Newsletter – November 2021**

<https://www.gpdf.org.uk/gpdf-newsletter-communique-nov-2021/>

### **New FREE course from the HEE Support scheme**

Please see message below from Dr Karen Foreshaw (South Yorkshire North Trent RCGP chair).

New FREE course from the HEE Support scheme aimed at those currently out of post and those who have just returned eg after maternity leave or a period of illness. It will also be useful for those contemplating leaving. This is a great way to support the wellbeing of clinicians in Yorkshire and the Humber. Below is a summary of the course and the booking links.

Are you ready to return to work?

Join the 'Resilient Practice' team for 3 interactive workshops designed to equip you with all the tools you need to return to work with confidence, enhanced skills, and a resilient mindset. We will show you how to:

Measure your current resilience

Take a deep dive into the psychology that supports improved mental wellbeing

Master the core skills required for resilience

Develop a bespoke toolkit to foster wellbeing and resilience for the rest of your career.

Day 1:

Delegates will gain a deep understanding of the key aspects of psychology that build resilience and learn how to apply them in clinical practice.

They will also have the opportunity to reflect on and evaluate the effects of putting this into practice using the Resilient Practice workbook

Day 2:

Delegates will master the core skills of self-observation, communication, breathing, visualisation, meditation, and mindfulness.

They will also have the opportunity to reflect and evaluate the effect practising these new skills as part of their wellbeing routine.

Day 3:

Delegates will experience a wide range of practical accessible resilience tools and techniques.

They will have the opportunity to measure their individual resilience needs using the 'Resilient Practice Gap Analysis Tool' to which the tools are clearly mapped.

Delegates will then create their own Resilience Toolkit.

Follow the links below to book your FREE place

We look forward to working with you

January 7th, 14th & 21st -

<https://www.maxcourse.co.uk/HEEYHME/userCourseMatchListCourseDetails.asp?cKey=19130>

February 2nd, 9th & 16th -

<https://www.maxcourse.co.uk/HEEYHME/userCourseMatchListCourseDetails.asp?cKey=19131>

March 4th, 11th & 18th -

<https://www.maxcourse.co.uk/HEEYHME/userCourseMatchListCourseDetails.asp?cKey=19132>

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## COMINGS AND GOINGS

Manston recently appointed Assistant Practice Manager's Sue Brady & Jayne Field.

## PRACTICE VACCANCIES AT...

### **Primary Care Network Development Manager – Chapeltown, Leeds**

**22.5 hours (3 days -hours to be flexible) – Salary £38,890 to £40,894 (Full time equivalent)**

Want to make a difference and help reduce health inequalities, work in a diverse and interesting community with a great team and have flexibility in the way you work -then read on....

A Primary Care Network (PCN) is a collection of GP practices working together, and at scale, on a five-year contract (from July 2019) to support the delivery of the NHS Long Term Plan. This will enable Primary Care to continue to develop and deliver the best possible healthcare based on the specific needs for a local population.

Chapeltown PCN has a patient population of approximately 27,000 across 3 practices- Woodhouse Medical Practice, St Martins Medical Practice, and Allerton/Westfield Medical Practices. We aim to provide high quality services adhering to principles of best practice, promoting equal opportunities and working positively with diversity. We are striving to increase awareness of health inequalities and introduce a range of strategic approaches including working with partners to reduce variations of outcomes for our practice population.

There is an exciting opportunity for an experienced Manager to join Chapeltown Primary Care Network. We are rapidly developing our multi-disciplinary workforce, embedding our roles, developing our team that makes a real difference to our patients and our practices.

The PCN Manager is key to the success of our PCN ensuring we deliver to our contracts, developing and delivering service models, embedding change and working closely with both our PCN workforce, participating practices and the wider health and wellbeing community.

The PCN Manager will work directly with our PCN Board and be a key role within the Executive Team. If you are keen to be part of our leadership team to take our PCN to the next stage, please apply now.

### Next steps-

To apply for this role please send a CV and covering letter to [chris.spargo@nhs.net](mailto:chris.spargo@nhs.net)

To find out a little more about this excellent opportunity please do not hesitate to contact: Lindsay Gollin, Business Manager at Allerton/Westfield Medical Centres (email [Lindsay.gollin@nhs.net](mailto:Lindsay.gollin@nhs.net) or telephone 0113 2211930), Camilla Hawkes, Managing Partner at St Martins Medical Practice [Camilla.hawkes@nhs.net](mailto:Camilla.hawkes@nhs.net) /tel. 0113 2211888, or Chris Spargo, Practice Manager, Woodhouse MP, (email [chris.spargo@nhs.net](mailto:chris.spargo@nhs.net) / telephone 0113 2213510

Closing date for this position is 23.59pm 8th December 2021.

### **Moorfield House Surgery: General Practitioner Leeds**

Exciting full/part time opportunities for salaried GPs at all levels of experience.

We are seeking ambitious, motivated candidates to join us and help shape the future of our dynamic, integrated, and patient focused team. To thrive in our team you should bring a passion for family medicine and continuity of care.

Our unique working model is designed to help our GPs flourish and offers a highly supportive team ethos with sensible workloads, no on-call shifts and no out of hours.

We are a well-respected semi-rural practice serving a list of 10,500 over two sites (Garforth & Rothwell), we have a 'Good' CQC and strong, positive patient feedback.

For candidates who share our commitment to teamwork and high-quality care we offer competitive salaries and benefits. As a team we will support you and your career development by encouraging and supporting special interests, training, further study and ensuring a good work/life balance. We would particularly welcome candidates who are or are seeking to be GP trainers.

Our team includes:

- A highly experienced and professional nursing team.
- Additional HCPs including: Practice Pharmacist, Paramedic, Practice Matron/ANP, Social prescriber, First contact Physiotherapist etc.
- Supportive and well organised management team and highly experienced admin and reception teams who manage clinical correspondence and use care navigation to effectively triage appointments.

In the first instance please contact [Adrian.brownlow@nhs.net](mailto:Adrian.brownlow@nhs.net) (Practice Business Manager) to arrange an informal discussion / visit.

### **Foundry Lane Surgery**

(Dr Sarah Frost, Dr Simon Hall, Dr Bruno Rushforth, Dr Cathryn Cooper) are looking to recruit a 4-session salaried GP to join our friendly training practice team.

We are keen to recruit a colleague who shares our desire to deliver high quality patient-centred care and education. Experienced candidates or those embarking on their GP career post-CCT would be equally welcome to apply. We would support the successful candidate with training to allow them to develop their clinical educator skills to support our GPSTs at the practice.

We are a low-visit practice and you will receive excellent support from our management and administrative team.

Start date is flexible for the right candidate.

Initial enquiries, or to arrange an informal discussion, please contact the Practice Manager. Interested candidates please forward CV to: [michaela.harvey@nhs.net](mailto:michaela.harvey@nhs.net)

Closing date – 6pm 20<sup>th</sup> December 2021.

Practice Manager

Kay Harvey

[michaela.harvey@nhs.net](mailto:michaela.harvey@nhs.net)

### **4 Salaried GP / Nurse Practitioner required for 4 sessions per week**

#### **Whitehall Surgery, Leeds LS12 5SG.**

- Salaried GP / or Nurse Practitioner required for 4 sessions per week, working Thursday & Friday. To join 3 GP partners and 4 salaried GP's. Our clinical team also consists of a highly qualified Nurse Practitioner, 3 Practice Nurses and 2 Health Care Assistants.



- Partnership opportunities for the right candidate.
- Friendly and welcoming team. Good working environment and collaborative staff.
- Pharmacists within the practice who work on tasks, repeat medication requests etc.
- 9000 patients in mixed urban/rural setting.
- Modern purpose built premises.
- Routinely high QOF achiever, 100% attained this year.
- Special interests welcome.
- Start date early December 2021.
- Informal visits and enquiries welcome.
- For further information regarding the practice please see our website, [www.gpnhs.net](http://www.gpnhs.net)

Applications to be made with CV to Mrs Joanne Woods, Whitehall Surgery, Wortley Beck Health Centre, Ring Road, Lower Wortley, Leeds LS12 5SG. Tel: 0113 3058150.  
E mail: [joanne.woods@nhs.net](mailto:joanne.woods@nhs.net)

### **Practice Nurse Vacancy – High Field Surgery**

We are a friendly, supportive GP surgery looking for an experienced and enthusiastic Practice Nurse to join our busy practice team.

We are currently a team of 4 Practice nurses and 3 Health Care Assistants and are looking for a full or part time nurse with the following attributes :

- RGN with NMC registration.
- Experience in managing chronic conditions.
- Specific nursing skills / qualifications including cervical cytology, wound care, immunisation.
- Commitment to continuing professional development.
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills.
- Ability to work autonomously and collaboratively within a team.
- To be able to determine workload priorities.
- Able to work under pressure in an ever changing environment.

We have a strong track record training and developing our nursing team, so for the right candidate we would be flexible on experience and skills.

#### **Terms & Conditions:**

- Full time or part time.
- Competitive rate of pay dependent on experience
- NHS Pension Scheme
- Uniform provided
- 6 weeks (pro rata) annual leave plus bank holidays
- Training and CPD provided where necessary.

Closing date for applications 18/12/2021

Contact Mike Holmes [mike.holmes1@nhs.net](mailto:mike.holmes1@nhs.net)

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