

LMC ViewPoint

The newsletter of Leeds Local Medical Committee Limited

27th January 2023

Backing the independent contractor model

It's been very concerning to see the media and politicians from across the spectrum criticising general practice in recent weeks despite the significant work practices have been doing to support their patients through this very difficult winter. The comments from shadow health secretary Wes Streeting, latter repeated by Kier Starmer, have been particularly concerning. The suggestion that they would phase out the independent contractor model, replacing it wholesale with a salaried service as part of a new 10 year plan failed to show any understanding about the serious impact that would have on patients as well as the profession.

The independent contractor model, which, when supported properly, is one of the most cost effective and efficient systems on the NHS. It leads to a level of continuity of care that makes a real difference to the health and wellbeing of large numbers of patients. It also enables GP practices and the wider general practice system to be innovative and respond rapidly to changing situations, as was evident in the successful delivery of the COVID-19 vaccination campaign, and the creation of PCNs across Leeds.

There are also many concerns with the Labour suggestion to allow more direct-to-specialist referrals, as whilst we already have a number of direct access schemes operating in Leeds, for instance for eye disorders and primary mental health services and smoking cessation services, inappropriate direct access to specialists could be counter-productive, creating higher demand on services leading to worsening delays for secondary care and could lead to harm through unnecessary investigations and treatments.

Please contact your own MP to highlight your concerns about these proposals and help to inform your MP about the benefit of a properly resourced and supported general practice.

Junior doctors' ballot on strike action – guidance and webinar for GP trainees

The ballot on [strike action for junior doctors in England is open](#), and this includes our GP trainee colleagues as an important group of the junior doctor workforce. They are acting as a result of the significant pay erosion they have experience over the past decade. This situation is made worse by the government also failing to address the undervaluation of the GP Flexible Pay Premia, despite making commitments to do so back in 2019.

Two webinars have been arranged to provide tailored advice specifically for GP trainees over the next few weeks at the following dates: Saturday 11 February, 10-11am and Monday 13 February, 6-7pm. The BMA would welcome all GP trainees to click [here](#) to register your attendance for either date.

You can also download the latest GP trainee materials to share with colleagues on the [BMA website](#). Further guidance for practices and LMCs to support GP trainees will be shared in the coming weeks.

Junior Doctors Rally

Yorkshire Regional Junior Doctors Committee has organised a rally of members on Saturday, 28 January from 1 – 3pm, in Millennium Square, Leeds. Dr Emma Runswick, Deputy Council Chair will be speaking alongside the YRJDC officers. All are invited to attend to support our junior doctor colleagues.

NHS Health Checks Review

The current NHS Health Check service contract in Leeds ends in March 2024. Leeds City Council, Public Health have been working with partners, stakeholders and the public to review the NHS

Health Check programme in order to inform how this service is delivered going forwards as part of the re-procurement process. If you would like to know more about the work of this review to date or contribute any considerations and insights to inform this work please contact either Hanna.kaye@leeds.gov.uk or Carl.mackie@leeds.gov.uk.

This is also an opportune moment to remind colleagues of the important role NHS Health Checks play in Cardiovascular Disease prevention and in helping to reduce health inequalities and therefore encourage General Practices to ensure their eligible population are invited for an NHS Health Check.

Primary Care Hub

NHS England Primary Care has launched a new [Primary Care Hub](#) which connects all the current primary care FutureNHS spaces together onto one single homepage. It includes information and resources, such as GP career support information, resources for primary care employers, managers and leaders.

Community Ambulatory Paediatric Service

The current same day response service for children ended on 20th January. A new service, the Leeds Community Ambulatory Paediatric Service (CAPS) started on Monday the 23rd January 2023. This is in response to an NHS England mandate for healthcare systems to establish 'Acute Respiratory Infection hubs' (ARI), as part of preparing for managing increased ARI in the community, until the end of March 2023.

Like the SDR Paediatric Clinics, CAPS will support General Practices, the local Clinical Assessment Service, NHS111 and ambulance crews, manage acute on the day demand for children, however there are specific criteria for booking into this service. Unlike the previous Paediatric clinic, CAPS is specifically in place for children with acute respiratory symptoms. This could include symptoms suggestive of chest infections, coughs, wheeze, sore throats and ear aches, for example. Children must also be clinically triaged and deemed appropriate for the service, before bookings are made. When booking children in to the service, where they clearly require a face to face examination (small babies, persistent fever, worried parents etc) please book straight into a face to face appointment. This will ensure they child gets the right kind of clinical assessment, and the remote appointments are saved for those where telephone consultation is more appropriate.

The CAPS service will operate from **St Georges Urgent Treatment Centre** and will operate from 1pm-8pm, Monday to Friday and will offer face to face and teleconsulting provision. Bookings for CAPS on weekdays will open from 10am. On a weekend, the service will operate from 10am-6pm with bookings opening from 9am. The service can be found on the Leeds GP Confederation SystmOne booking platform, with clinics clearly labelled as 'CAPS'.

For none respiratory symptoms, the general Same Day Response Service will still be in place from 4-8pm Monday to Friday and from 10am-6pm on weekends and Bank Holidays, and remains open to bookings for both adults and children. Children with respiratory symptoms must be booked into CAPS in the first instance. Where capacity in CAPS has been exhausted, children with ARI symptoms can then be booked into the general Same Day Response service, in the usual way.

If you have any questions about this service, please contact Shaun Major-Preece, Clinical Lead on shaun.major-preece@nhs.net

Role of General Practice teams in supporting patient access to COVID-19 treatments

To help GP teams and reception staff deal with queries from patients on treatments for COVID-19, NHS England has produced a [COVID treatment fact sheet](#). This has been created to help GP practice staff assess and refer patients for antivirals correctly and includes a fact sheet for reception staff to ensure that potentially eligible patients receive a referral to a COVID-19 Medicine Delivery Unit when appropriate.

PPE supplies

The government has announced it has extended the central, free provision of Covid PPE to the health and care sector, by up to one year to March 2024 or until stocks are depleted (whichever is sooner). DHSC will publish details about stock-out dates by PPE category by April 2023. Details can be found [here](#).

Accelerating patient online access to GP records update (TPP practices)

TPP practices who have not opted out will be enabled for prospective access on 01 February 2023. TPP have notified these practices through the notice board and via a task entitled 'Prospective Record Access for Patients'. Data will only be visible to patients from the date of switch on. Where patients already had access to their record prior to the date of the change, the visibility of that data will not change.

If a practice does not wish for the change to be applied on 1 February 2023, they must take immediate action, Email RecordAccess@tpp-uk.com by 27 January 2023 and include the instruction, practice name, address and ODS code. If opt-out is not registered with TPP by 27 January 2023, the practices will be enabled. Please [see attached](#) for a copy of the template letter to write to your system supplier if needed.

Backlog clinic for diagnostic spirometry – update for practices

The backlog clinic for diagnostic spirometry still has capacity. Practices who have patients on a waiting list up until 31 March 2022 are encouraged to utilise this time limited initiative. If your patient requires diagnostic spirometry to confirm diagnosis before accessing pulmonary rehab, then please make a referral.

Communication between DWP and GP practices

To support the NHS move away from use of fax as a method of communication and in response to the removal of fax machines from GP surgeries, the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) has been working with Centre for Health and Disability Assessments (CHDA), to respond to this change.

From 30 January 2023 CHDA will be using email in place of existing fax processes for some communications with GP surgeries across England, Scotland and Wales. The email from CHDA will be in the format firstname.lastname@chda.dwp.gov.uk or location.furtherEvidence@chda.dwp.gov.uk. GPs should reply to the indicated location.furtherEvidence@chda.dwp.gov.uk email address.

DWP has confirmed that this process meets information governance standards and is covered by existing data sharing agreements. Please note, as per the current arrangement, for all urgent information CHDA will call the GP surgery by telephone. For further information, please contact hdas.digitalchange@dwp.gov.uk

Healthcare Inequalities – using prescription data

Healthcare inequalities are avoidable, unfair, and systematic differences in health, care and opportunities to lead healthy lives, between different groups of people. People living in deprived communities, people from minority ethnic communities, those with inclusion health needs, or people living with disability are among those that suffer from healthcare inequalities.

[Evidence](#) suggests that people living in our most deprived areas face some of the worst healthcare inequalities in relation to healthcare access, experiences, and outcomes. Those in the most deprived areas can expect to live 19 fewer healthy years than those in the least deprived areas.

The NHSBSA have produced an [analysis](#) of prescription data to identify possible healthcare inequalities, using the [Core20PLUS5](#) approach, a national NHS England (NHSE) approach to support the reduction of healthcare inequalities. The report examines overall prescribing, uptake of prescription exemption schemes and prescribing patterns in medications associated with the management of three of the '5' focus areas of the Core20PLUS5 approach: chronic obstructive

pulmonary disease (COPD), hypertension, and severe mental illness (SMI), in the Core20 target population versus the non-Core20 population.

Direct contact to the Leeds Sexual Health service for professionals

The LMC had a recent meeting to talk about the pressures experienced by the Leeds Sexual Health service and the challenge many patients have getting access. As a reminder professionals can access the Leeds Sexual Health Service directly via 07710 027063 or 0113 3920328, 8.30am - 7pm Monday – Thursday, 8.30am - 5pm Friday. Please leave a message on the mobile number with your name and direct number if they do not answer (as they may be with a patient). More information can be found at [Contact details for healthcare professionals - Leeds Sexual Health](#).

NICE reevaluating further encouragement in the use of statins

Please see link below to information on the news around NICE reevaluating further encouragement in the use of statins: [Consider statins for millions more people in England, NHS told - BBC News](#). Which refers to the update of NICE Guidance 181 'Cardiovascular disease: risk assessment and reduction, including lipid modification' currently out for consultation [Consultation | Cardiovascular disease: risk assessment and reduction, including lipid modification | Guidance | NICE](#).

Take a Colleague to Work shadowing scheme

Take a Colleague to Work is a shadowing opportunity for Primary and Secondary Care doctors. It provides the opportunity to fully understand and experience each other's roles and ways of working, to find ways to effectively work together and to enable greater understanding of each other's roles. To take part please complete attached form and contact details will be shared with a counterpart so you can arrange to book in some time to shadow each other.

TARGET sessions

We are pleased that 111 and LCD have confirmed that out of hours cover will be in place for the upcoming external TARGET events in February and we hope this will continue to be the case for the rest of the year. We have agreed with the ICB how important it is for protected learning time for general practice to be prioritised.

For the February events new pre-recorded training and education materials are being prepared including on Long covid: service updates and health inequalities, paediatric allergies, safeguarding: key themes from domestic homicide reviews, women's health part 1: endometriosis and wound care: using NHS supply chain to order dressings for practice.

Core skills – new bitesize training sessions for managers and their teams

Free training sessions have been developed by NHS England for practice and PCN managers and their teams throughout February and March 2023. Please take a look at the sessions and share with your teams:

- [Transition to leadership](#) highlights the challenges of leadership in the context of primary care and supports new or aspiring leaders to achieve their leadership ambitions.
- [Recharge and recover](#) teaches life skills and self-awareness that are valuable in enabling learners to recover from intense work periods.

Carbon literacy event

Health and care colleagues across West Yorkshire are invited to join a free all day online event around carbon literacy to find out more about the scale and urgency to meet NHS net zero and other sustainability targets. The event will be repeated on three days from 9.30 to 4 on:

- Monday 6 February
- Thursday 9 March
- Monday 17 April

The training provides learners with an awareness of the costs of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases and the impacts of climate change on everyday activities. This includes the

services we provide, the goods we purchase and the lives of our patients, service users and colleagues. We also consider how we will need to adapt to be resilient to our changing weather.

Emma Clarke, Energy, Waste and Sustainability Manager at Bradford District Care NHS Foundation Trust will host the training. To book and for more information see the [Eventbrite](#) page. Places are limited so please only book for your preferred day.

New Leeds GP Confederation Chair

After fulfilling the role of Chair of the Leeds GP Confederation for four years, Dr Chris Mills has stepped down. Dr George Winder has been elected as the next Chair. George is a GP partner at Oakwood Lane Practice and a Clinical Director of the Seacroft Primary Care Network. We welcome George to the Chair role and look forward to working with him.

LTHT Chief Executive

Professor Phil Wood, Chief Medical Officer and Deputy Chief Executive at Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust, has been announced as the new Chief Executive of the Trust and will start his role from 1 February 2023. Phil joined the Trust in 2002 as a Consultant Immunologist and has since held operational and strategic roles including Medical Director for Strategy and Planning and Clinical Director for Pathology and for Oncology. He has been the Chief Medical Officer since 2020.

We congratulate Phil on this appointment and look forward to working with him in this new role.

Thank you

A thank you letter has been sent to all health and care workers, voluntary community social enterprise sector colleagues, and volunteers, sent on behalf of Rob Webster, CEO Lead for West Yorkshire Health and Care Partnership / CEO for NHS West Yorkshire Integrated Care Board; Cathy Elliott, Chair of the NHS West Yorkshire Integrated Care Board, and Cllr Tim Swift, Leader of Calderdale Council and Chair of the West Yorkshire Health and Care Partnership Board. The link to the letter online is [here](#) and is attached.

GPMplus **Team Leadership** and **Personal Resilience** courses in January are now fully booked – we have added more dates in Feb/March which are already filling up fast so if you are interested in these courses, we recommend that you book as soon as possible [here](#). Our **Successful Complaints Management courses** are all fully booked up to the end of March – we will be adding more dates to our website in the next few weeks.

GPMplus Healthy Practice courses - book today

Below are courses that do still have some places available to book

These courses are suitable for all staff working in General Practice

Personal Resilience – 15 Feb, 1 to 5pm

Read more about this course [here](#)

Tiny Habits for Wellbeing – 1 Mar, 12-1.30pm

Find out more about this course [here](#)

Burnout: Prevent and Repair – 8 Mar, 12-1.30pm

Read more about this course [here](#)

The courses are fully funded however we do request a £10 donation (optional) per delegate to the Cameron Fund Charity.

Join a 2 Hour Focus Group Developing E-Learning for Complex Emotional Needs (Personality Disorder)

The National KUF Hub* is developing a package of e-learning to support GPs and primary care staff to better meet the needs of patients with Complex Emotional Needs, often associated with a diagnosis of 'personality disorder'.

The project group are currently creating the content for the eLearning and are planning focus groups with GPs and Primary Care Staff to help ensure that the project effectively meets learners' needs. We would like to offer you the opportunity to join this focus group. The focus group will run for a maximum of two hours on-line and will be arranged at a time to suit as many participants as possible. If you are interested, please add your details to the very short expression of interest form by using the following link <https://forms.office.com/e/DYTXVf3ayU>

If you have any questions relating to the focus group and/or proposed training, please email project manager, Daron Oram, at daron.oram@annafreud.org. For more information about the KUF Hub please go to <https://kuftraining.org.uk/>

PRACTICE VACANCIES

PLEASE BE AWARE THAT WE ARE NOW ADVERTISING PRACTICE VACANCIES ON THE LMC WEBSITE – PLEASE VIEW VIA WEBSITE LINK- [Leeds LMC: Jobs](#)