

Medical Secretary's Report 2019

In 2019 GPC England has negotiated a deal spanning the next five years with progressive changes including creating networks, increasing workforce, additional funding and networks will decide upon service reconfiguration.

The most substantial changes commenced from April 2019 and should provide much needed support and resources for general practice, expanding the workforce, reducing workload, increasing funding, retaining GP and partnership autonomy and ensuring GPs have a leadership role at the centre of primary care.

In Leeds the LMC have been involved in discussions with the CCG in negotiating an uplift in the payment per patient value across the city to try and reduce inequalities in funding for practices and provide an increase in that funding to reduce some of the financial pressures that practices face. The expectation was to align both GMS and PMS practices to the same level of core funding by 2020/21. After review, it was evident that there was still a discrepancy in the funding of GMS and PMS practices. GMS practices were paid at £88.96 and PMS practices were paid between £91.28 and £95.50. After discussions all practices were uplifted or maintained at a funding level of £95.50 per patient.

PCNs

Practices have been offered a new networks DES – The primary care network contract. This will provide funding for practices to form networks and create additional workforce in general practice. The DES allows PCNs to be built through the GMS contract and therefore ground upwards, removing the requirement for procurement and PCNs are GP led. CCGs can continue to commission local services directly from practices or if appropriate from PCN. PCNs should be able to enable services to be developed around local communities, building on local GP practices to help reconnect primary care teams across the areas covered. In Leeds 19 PCNs have been established.

In Leeds the GP confederation has made an offer to support the PCNs in implementing the DES and help develop solutions at scale around estates, workforce and IT, pathway redesign and service delivery etc.

State Indemnity

In April 2019 the state backed indemnity scheme commenced to follow on from the reimbursements to cover the increase in indemnity costs, received over the past couple of years. This has been a welcome arrival and relieves some of the pressures on GPs in terms of continually rising indemnity costs and reduces the risks of some of the astronomical costs seen over the past few years. This covers clinical negligence for all GPs and staff working in NHS GP providers, both in and out of hours, for NHS work, from April 2019. Run by NHS Resolution, this will come at no direct cost to practices or GPs.

Flu vaccination campaign

Flu campaigns continue to create difficulties for GP practices. There are problems with vaccine supplies being limited and deliveries being staggered. GP practices are still receiving their stocks after the local pharmacies and this continues to cause financial implications for practices who will not have been able to administer jabs to their own patients and who will have been left with unused stock that they may not be able to return. This is a national problem and we have little control over the management of the campaign.

PCSE

The LMC has worked hard with PCSE and held events to try and raise practices concerns with PCSE and also to try and improve the liaisons with PCSE. We have hosted a general PCSE services event and also a pensions specific event. Both events were well attended, and the feedback was very positive. We hope that practices find that their previously poor experiences with PCSE improve and that the events allowed both practices and PCSE themselves to address concerns that they each had. We will continue to try and engage with PCSE to resolve any further issues and hopefully improve performance in the future.

CQC

GP practices in Leeds have performed well in CQC inspections overall. There were 4 practices with an outstanding rating and 93 with a good overall rating. Leeds had no practices requiring improvement or inadequate as of August 2019. This is to be commended and was not a common finding across the country.

Good and outstanding practices will have an annual regulatory review with the use of provider information collection and a 5 yearly full inspection.

The LMC continue to liaise with the CQC lead inspectors regularly.

GP Mentorship Scheme

The LMC mentorship scheme has been well subscribed to and feedback to date has been very positive. The range of issues that GPs have requested help with has been broad ranged and varied including requests to support GPs struggling to manage workload, partnership issues, time management, employment issues to name a few examples. The aim continues to be to provide mentorship for GPs that does not provide support for any health issues. The GP health service should continue to support any GPs with health issues. Please contact the LMC directly if you wish to be considered for the scheme.

Leeds LMC update

The LMC has continued to host a number of events that we hope have been useful to practices. In the past year we have hosted events with PCSE regarding practice issues and regarding pensions, the NHS App and IT in the city, in addition we have been involved in hosting training and development sessions for GPs as part of a "Thrive and Survive" series (which included financial consultancy workshops) in addition to mindfulness sessions. The feedback from the events and attendance has been excellent. The LMC has also held GP contract roadshow events earlier this year.

The LMC website is updated by the executive officers and we continue to add to our library of guidance, focus on documents and newsletters. We have also added any presentations

from our local events on to our website for access by interested parties. We hope that GPs and practices will be continuing to find this useful.

The LMC Facebook page remains active and you will be able to see regular tweets from the team with up to date news from our Twitter account.

We continue to see many GPs and practices under strain and in need of help and advice. The LMC is available to offer support and we would encourage people to contact us at an early stage. The LMC is working with the CCG regularly to recognise practices and GPs in difficulty at an earlier stage and this has enabled us to provide support and resolve some of the arising issues.

The LMC provides regular representation for GPs to the Performance Advisory Group and we are also now involved in the Performer's List Decision Panel dealing with GPs in difficulty for a variety of reasons.

The LMC has continued to have excellent support from committee members and we continue to elect new members to our committee from a wide variety of backgrounds. We work hard to maintain strong working relationships with the CCG, NHS England's regional team, Public Health and also LCH, LYPFT, Leeds City Council, The CQC Regional Inspectors and the Confederation and the Local Representatives Committee.

We are always keen to encourage new members to join us and would value their input. If anyone wishes to join the LMC as a committee member we would be grateful if you could contact the office or myself directly to discuss this further. If any committee members wish to attend the national conference next year, please contact us at mail@leedslmc.org.

The next conference of England LMCs is being held in London on 22nd November 2019. Leeds have proposed several motions that have been accepted around topics including: PCNs and workforce expansion, NHS England's plans to automatically award APMS contracts to digital first providers when a specific number of out of area registrations are reached, recurrent investment into general practice and its infrastructure and workforce, medication shortages, pension issues, inequalities between primary and secondary care in terms of maternity and paternity leave.

Over the years we have been fortunate to be able to take observers with us to the conferences and feel that it provides a valuable experience and hopefully an insight into policy forming for the GPC. The LMC conferences are now held twice a year – with a separate conference for the England LMCs and a combined UK LMC conference. The next UK conference will be held in York on 6th and 7th of May 2020. If anyone is keen to join us, please contact the LMC Office.

Please feel free to come and see us at the LMC offices. Jodie, Kate or I would be happy to see you. We do have rooms available for use for people wishing to meet their appraiser or for mentoring sessions.

DR RAJ SATHIYASEELAN
Medical Secretary, Leeds LMC

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