

Date: 25th November 2020
Our Ref: JH/JB/293

Dr Richard Vautrey - Chair, GPC England
Dr Nicola Hambridge - Chair, Leeds LMC
Dr Nikki Kanani - Medical Director of Primary Care,
NHS England

Via email

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Dear Richard, Nicola and Nikki,

I am writing to recognise and express my thanks for the response and partnership working shown by general practice across Leeds during the Covid-19 pandemic, and particularly during recent weeks.

On 9th November we received an open letter from all primary care network clinical directors offering support as partners in the city. GPs have since come forward to offer support to teams managing Covid-19 patients at the Leeds General Infirmary, working on the wards and being available for advice. They have provided their expertise in navigating resources available in the community, monitoring patients and supporting discharge. I have received numerous reports on their positive impact in a short space of time. This demonstrates the obvious benefits to building connections and joining up skills and expertise between hospitals, primary care and social care; Covid-19 has accelerated this and I am sure there are opportunities to continue these ways of working beyond the pandemic.

There are other key initiatives in general practice which are crucial to how the pandemic response is managed in Leeds, including the flu vaccine, the Covid-19 vaccine, the virtual frailty ward, the management of outpatients, the national oximetry pathway and many more. Collaboration between LTHT and general practice and primary care networks proves crucial for our hospitals and our patients.

I also note all the work in general practice which doesn't touch the walls of our hospitals. Throughout the pandemic, general practice has shown itself to be agile, proactive and patient centred and is a credit to the NHS in Leeds. During the spring we had applause each Thursday outside the LGI; I echo this to each GP practice in the city.

Yours sincerely



Julian Hartley
Chief Executive

Copied to:
Clinical Directors of Leeds Primary Care Networks