

LMC ViewPoint

The newsletter of Leeds Local Medical Committee Limited

October 2021

UPDATE FROM PUBLIC HEALTH

Accurate as of 25/10

Along with other areas of the country, we continue to face a challenging position in the city, with particular pressures in the health and care sector that you and your teams will all be facing. This is compounded by increased demand for routine appointments and workforce shortages.

The overall case rate in Leeds has stabilised over the last 7 days and the Leeds rate is 488.1 per 100,000. This indicates that the rate is stable with a slight reduction as compared to the previous week's rate (490.2 per 100,000). The 7-day rate for the same period for Yorkshire and Humber was 474.4 per 100,000 (a 3% decrease over the past 7 days) and for England was 488.5 per 100,000 population (a 15% increase over the past 7 days). The rate for West Yorkshire, as of 26th October, is 477.9 per 100,000. Leeds remains the second highest out of the 5 local authorities in West Yorkshire, however all areas in the region have either seen a reduction or stabilisation in infection rate. Although the city had observed steep escalations in the under 18 population there are now signs that the rate is levelling off, despite evidence of rates continuing in the older age groups. Compared to other areas Leeds is in a relatively stable position and is not an outlier either in Yorkshire and Humber or England as a whole. The situation continues to be dynamic, however, and we continue to monitor it closely with The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA), which is responsible for many functions previously performed by Public Health England (PHE).

In the latest week, cases are again highest in the 11-16 and 5-10 age groups respectively. There are signs that rates are levelling off and there will be a decreasing trend. There are 109 Leeds schools with active cases. Schools are now on half term which will interrupt potential school-based transmission during this week. Families and staff are being encouraged to undertake Lateral Flow Testing ahead of returning to school and twice weekly once they return. Numbers of under 18-year-olds admitted to hospital who have tested positive for covid has remained stable. The lowest rates continue to be in the 19–24 age group and this has decreased since last week. Similar trends for case rates among these age groups are generally being observed across Yorkshire and Humber and some parts of the country, particularly in the major cities.

The current rate for Leeds in the over 60s population is 315.1 per 100,000, which is a 9% increase from the previous week. The current rate for over 60s in Yorkshire and Humber is 255.4 per 100,000, which is a 3% increase from the previous week. The over 60s rate for West Yorkshire is 284.8 per 100,000, a 4% increase from the previous week. Leeds is the second highest across West Yorkshire for the over 60s rate. Of particular concern is the stacking that is now being seen with an increase in the case rates for the 60-79 age group and the over 80s population, which is a trend replicated across other local authority areas in the region. There is ongoing work focusing on those most at risk (people over 60 and those that were identified as clinically extremely vulnerable) of harm from COVID particularly during Winter. Key messages about staying safe aimed at over 60s are being developed and shared by partners. The booster vaccination programme is likely to mitigate the risk of hospitalisations and severe illness in the older adult population, but there are still a significant number in this group who have not yet had any vaccination. There are 12 ongoing outbreaks in older people's care homes. In total, across these sites, there are 55 residents and 33 staff who are PCR positive. The number of sites reporting outbreaks remains stable, however there has been an increase in the number of residents testing positive from 29 last week. All care homes continue to be monitored and receive support to manage outbreaks. Care home rates will continue to be monitored closely and the booster vaccination programme is being rolled out at pace. The ONS reported 5 deaths in the latest week, which is a stable position. We continue to closely monitor the data for any changes. There are 123

beds occupied with people who are Covid-positive at LTHT, which is an increase from 107 last week. ICU/HDU bed occupancy has slightly increased from 16 last week to 18 this week. LTHT received 329 admissions in the 28-day period ending 25th October. Over half - 53% (175) of admissions - were in people aged over 65. 69 admissions (21%) were in people aged between 46 and 65, 49 (15%) admissions were for those aged between 26 and 45 and the remaining 36 were in under 25's (11%).

Primary care and partners in Leeds continue to work together well, with everyone playing their part and some signs for optimism. Nationally, [Plan B](#) is being considered given pressures on the NHS, so it is worth reflecting that the virus is very much still with us.

Government's 'rescue package' out of touch with GP crisis

The LMC was hugely dismayed that whilst additional funding of £250m has been promised, the Government's so called 'rescue [package](#)' as a whole offers very little and shows a Government completely out of touch with the scale of the crisis on the ground.

We have issued a joint statement with Leeds GP Confederation rejecting the package. Please see attached.

GPs and their teams could now be facing the worst winter for decades, and as a result, patients' care will suffer. Appointments will be harder to book, waiting times will get longer, more of the profession could leave and GPs will struggle to cope.

It is also disappointing to see that there is no end in sight to the preoccupation with face-to-face appointments. While in-person consultations are a key feature of general practice and absolutely necessary for some patients, the pandemic has proven that in many other cases, phone or video appointments are entirely appropriate and appreciated by patients, and a crude focus on percentages or targets is completely unhelpful.

The BMA [analysis](#) shows what the package really means for general practice and highlights that it consists mainly of things NHSE/I and/or government has already stated or things that are already the case. They have also updated their [General Practice factsheet](#) showing the facts and figures of the crisis.

BMA to undertake an indicative ballot of practices on potential action

Following resolutions at an emergency GPC England meeting, the BMA have launched an indicative ballot of all practices in England. They are seeking the support of practices to demonstrate to Government and NHSEI that GPs and practices need meaningful support not a package that could make matters worse.

The ballot is based on the resolutions passed by GPCE and includes questions on further actions practices might be prepared to take, such as:

- participating in a coordinated and continuous withdrawal from the PCN DES at the next opt-out period
- disengaging, on a continuous basis, from the PCN DES before the next opt-out period
- not complying, on a continuous basis, with the contractual requirement to ensure GPs earning over the earnings threshold declare their income or to provide COVID vaccination exemption certificates
- participate in a coordinated and continuous change to your appointment book, so as to impact the quality of the nationally reported appointment dataset.

They stress that these actions are not directed at patients, or the care they receive, but at Government and NHSEI.

Practices should consider this carefully over the coming days and give an honest response as to what they would or would not be prepared to do.

Supporting general practice against abuse

The BMA continues to campaign against abuse of GPs and their staff with our [Support Your Surgery campaign](#) to get the changes that are so urgently needed to support general practice teams.

The latest resource added to the campaign page is a [zero-tolerance poster](#) to show that assault on practice staff, threatening or abusive behaviour or damage to property will not be tolerated.

Letter from the LMC to Leeds MPs re: Support for General Practice

Please see the attached letter that was sent to all Leeds MPs.

Hilary Benn MP responded thanking the LMC for the letter outlining the pressures being faced by GPs in the city and the comments that have been made by some sections of the media and some politicians. He said he recognises the pressures and he has expressed his backing for the *Support Your Surgery* campaign, agreeing that we clearly need more GPs.

GPC chair steps down

Dr Richard Vautrey, GPC England chair has announced his intention of stepping down from this role at the next GPCE meeting in November.

A [BMA statement](#) has been issued in which Richard said: "Being chair of the BMA's GP committee has been the greatest privilege and honour. To be able to work on behalf of this great profession for so long has given me the opportunity to work with many extremely gifted and dedicated people and I want to thank them all for their help, support, and encouragement. Together we have achieved a lot including significantly increasing the investment for general practice after a time of austerity, turning around the decline in GP pay, removing the burden of indemnity, improving the quality of care for patients with long-term conditions, enabling the recruitment of a growing multidisciplinary team to work with and support GPs - including pharmacists in practices - funding to help young partners and most recently supporting GPs and practices through and COVID-19 pandemic and enabling GPs to play a leading role in the hugely successful delivery of the COVID-19 vaccination programme. I'm proud of all we have accomplished."

GP declaration of earnings guidance

Ahead of the Government's [GP pay transparency](#) deadline of 12 November, which were introduced on 1 October, when the [GMS and PMS Regulations](#) were amended to require some GPs to self-declare their earnings, the BMA have now published [guidance on what this means for GPs](#).

They have already made clear the significant concerns about compelling GPs to publicly declare their NHS earnings over a certain threshold, especially in the current climate of threat, aggression and violence towards GPs. This will be damaging to morale among the profession, could lead to an increase in abuse targeted at individual GPs and will be wholly counterproductive in terms of the ability to recruit and retain GPs. There are already reports of GPs reducing their hours to remain under the threshold. GPs need to consider carefully the implications before making a self declaration.

Covid medical exemptions

A systematic medical exemptions process was introduced on 30 September, to ensure that those who, for medical reasons, should not be vaccinated (and/or be tested) for COVID-19 are not disadvantaged across certification use cases.

Given the need for clinical judgement and access to patient records, the Department of Health and Social Care have set up a system using 119 to initially assess patients and may then ask GPs, secondary care clinicians or midwives, depending on who is involved in the person's care, to

assess applications. Steps have been taken to limit the number of applications reaching clinicians (e.g. no appointment required, pre-screening process).

Read the [guidance](#) detailing the process and clinical criteria and payment mechanisms (for GPs).

BMA guidance on the Covid vaccination medical exemption certification process is available [here](#).

Infection control recommendations for primary care

The UK Health Security Agency today has published recommendations for changes to [Infection Prevention and Control Guidance \(IPC\) in primary care](#) following previous recommendations which focussed on changes in elective care.

The main amendment is the reduction of the 2 metre social distancing rule to 1 metre, highlighting the need for appropriate mitigation. The guidance strongly emphasises that local decisions and local risk assessments will ultimately govern judgements such whether a face-to-face consultation is appropriate and where physical distancing can be safely reduced, which we welcome. It is therefore for practices to determine what arrangements they have in the surgery. The full guidance will be published shortly. Read more about the [UKHSA review into IPC guidance](#)

Government COVID antiviral strategy

The [Government announced](#) plans to roll out new anti-viral drugs via clinical trials over the coming winter months, with a view to deploying more widely in summer 2022. Trials have found the twice-daily tablet molnupiravir (Merck) cut the risk of hospital admission or death by about half- 480,000 courses have been secured.

A further 250,000 courses of PF-07321332/ritonavir (Pfizer) have also been secured, which is currently undergoing clinical trials with three Phase Two and Phase Three trials looking at the clinical effectiveness of the treatment currently underway.

The drugs reduce the severity of symptoms and speed up recovery time for those who test positive. The two new drugs are yet to be approved by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency.

September appointment data

Appointment data for September shows a big increase in the number of appointments in general practice:

- The number of standard appointments in general practice **has noticeably risen since last month by 4.7 million to 28.6 million**, while the number of Covid vax appts delivered by practices has dropped (by nearly 1 million) to 552k. This brings the total number of appointments in September to **29 million**.
- **Excluding the covid vaccination appts that's 2.3 million more than September 2019, including them it's 2.8 million more.**
- The **number of face-to-face appointments has increased from 13.7 million to 17.3 million (a 26% increase)**. F2F appts now make up 60.8% of all appointments.
- As a % of overall appointments, telephone decreased from 38.4% in August to 35% in September and Video stayed at 0.5%

New GP workforce data

The latest [GP workforce data](#) for August show the continuing contraction of the General Practice workforce, something that the Government's failed to acknowledge in its 'rescue package', although many media reports, including BBC reports, have started to helpfully focus on this important issue.

While an increase of around 1,700 GP trainees since the previous month is a positive addition, General Practice is now 1,803 fully qualified full-time equivalent (FTE) GPs short of 2015 levels. Over the past year alone General Practice has lost 380 fully qualified FTE GPs, which equates to a net loss of 307 fully qualified individual GPs (a gain of 611 salaried and locum GPs, with a loss of 918 partners).

The number of primary care nurses and direct patient care staff has also dropped over the past year, and marginal increases in the number of admin and non-clinical staff are not enough to cope with increasing administrative and bureaucratic burden.

Meanwhile, the number of patients continues to grow equating to more pressure on remaining GPs as the number of fully qualified GPs per 1,000 patients in England have fallen). This, combined with the latest [GP appointment data](#), which showed that the total number of appointments delivered by general practice remains higher than pre-pandemic levels and the fact that appointments delivered face-to-face has risen to 57.7%, clearly illustrates that the profession is working harder than ever.

Full analysis can be found on the BMA's [Pressures in General Practice](#) webpage.

October GPDF Newsletter

For your information, please see the GPDF newsletter [here](#) or by following this link <https://www.gpdf.org.uk/gpdf-newsletter-communique-october-2021/>.

PSNC Briefing for GP teams – changes to teams – community pharmacy contract in 2021/22

For your information, please see the attached briefing.

COMINGS AND GOINGS

- Dr Paul Glynn, GP partner at Lingwell Croft Surgery retired on 30th September.
- St Martins Practice welcomes Dr Jon Wills as GP partner from 1st November.

Practice vacancies at.....

Advanced Clinical Practitioner - Permanent position

Sessions per week: 30 – 37.5 hours per week

We have an exciting and unique opportunity for an experienced and committed Advanced Clinical Practitioner to join our team. This role is open to experienced and qualified practitioners who may come from a variety of backgrounds. This may appeal to a suitably qualified Advanced nurse Practitioner or Paramedic.

We expect to recruit positive, forward thinking individuals who are motivated, work under pressure and manage the needs of a wide variety of attendances. This post is for the experienced professional who has experience of dealing with Minor Illness and management of Acute presentations.

This role is ideally for both Adult and Paediatric presentations to the practice. As a registered professional, with a Masters in Advanced Clinical Practice you must be able to demonstrate

significant clinical experience. Your role will involve assessment, treatment and management of a diverse undifferentiated caseload of patients requiring triage and care.

The successful applicant must:

- Have considerable, demonstrable experience in an urgent care or primary care setting
- Be clinically competent to manage preferably both Adult and Paediatric presentations across the spectrum of illness.
- Hold an MSc qualification in Advanced Clinical Practice including a non-medical prescribing qualification.
- Hold relevant qualifications in Minor Illness.

Our 'big practice with a small friendly team approach' is situated in purpose build premises in the pleasant residential area of Rawdon and Yeadon of Leeds.

We are a training practice and participate in a range of projects and enhanced services.

Aire Valley Surgery have a dedicated large team which consists of approximately 19 GPs including Registrars and FY2s, Advanced Nurse Practitioners, Physicians Associates and a Practice Pharmacist. We have a growing Nursing Team and our attached staff in house include the Midwives, PhysioFirst, and Social Prescribers.

- List size of approximately 14,500
- 5 Partners – Dr Chris Mills, Dr Elaine James, Dr Adrian Rees, Dr Laura Clegg and Dr Sumana Reddy
- Systmone and operating a triage software system called Klinik (Full Training will be provided)
- There is no requirement for any extended Hours work
- We hope for all suitably qualified members of our team to take a fair share of letters, path links and prescriptions.

Salaried rates and job plan will be subject to experience, skills and flexibility.

Please email your CV with a covering letter to:

Miss Victoria Allen - Practice Manager

Aire Valley Surgery, 11 New Road Side, Rawdon, LS19 6DD

vallen1@nhs.net

07766 236212

Our closing date is Thursday 28th October 2021

Primary Care Network Clinical Director

Posted: October 2021

If you are a General Practitioner or Advanced Practitioner with prescribing skills and want to develop expertise in service improvement and medical management then please read on.

Yeadon Primary Care Network is looking to recruit a second Clinical Director to do a job share. The PCN funds 6 hours a week of Clinical Director time and we are looking to recruit 4 hours a week so that the new applicant will be able to commit a full clinical session a week to this role.

You would need to be employed within one of the PCN practices and there are roles available at Aire Valley Surgery for a Salaried GP or Advanced Practitioner - ranging from 4 sessions to full time.

The Clinical Director role is varied and rewarding, and the detail of responsibilities that sit with the new CD will be decided based on interest and experience.

The sorts of things a CD will be involved:

- Supporting practices to tackle health inequalities
- Service improvement regarding cardiovascular prevention
- New service development to deliver anticipatory care to people living with frailty
- Medicines management
- Supporting the practices to safely deliver COVID vaccinations
- Development of recruitment plans with practices
- Building relationships with local 3rd Sector organisations and other providers such as LCH, LTHT and LYPFT
- Working at a city level with other clinical directors
- Governance and financial arrangements within the PCN
- Be a voting member on the board of Leeds GP Confederation.

If you are interested, then please contact Dr Chris Mills for further discussion on cmills@nhs.net
The salary for the Clinical Director sessions is expected to be in the region of £12k per session per year.

Applications will close on Thursday 28th October 2021 with interviews soon after.

Yeadon Primary Care Network is a collaboration between:

Aire Valley Surgery, Guiseley & Yeadon Medical Practice and The Menston & Guiseley Practice.

**Salaried GP Vacancy - Permanent position
Sessions per week: 4-8 sessions per week**

We are looking for a highly motivated doctor to join a busy medical practice. Our 'big practice with a small friendly team approach' is situated in purpose build premises in the pleasant residential area of Rawdon and Yeadon of Leeds.

We are a training practice and participate in a range of projects and enhanced services.

Aire Valley Surgery have a dedicated large team which consists of approximately 19 GPs including Registrars and FY2s, Advanced Nurse Practitioners, Physicians Associates and a Practice Pharmacist. We have a growing Nursing Team and our attached staff in house include the Midwives, PhysioFirst, and Social Prescribers.

- List size of approximately 14,500
- 5 Partners – Dr Chris Mills, Dr Elaine James, Dr Adrian Rees, Dr Laura Clegg and Dr Sumana Reddy
- Systemone and operating a triage software system called Klinik (Full Training will be provided)
- There is no requirement for any extended Hours work
- This includes a fair share of letters, path links and prescriptions

Salaried rates and job plan will be primarily based around recommended BMA, subject to experience, skills and flexibility.

Please email your CV with a covering letter to:

Miss Victoria Allen - Practice Manager

Aire Valley Surgery, 11 New Road Side, Rawdon, LS19 6DD

vallen1@nhs.net

07766 236212

Our closing date is Thursday 28th October 2021

Practice Nurse Vacancy - Alwoodley Medical Centre

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 6 Practice nurses and 5 Health Care Assistants and are looking for a full 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.
- Flexibility of working hours that may include extended hours.

Terms & Conditions:

- Ideally full time.
- Offer of a competitive rate of pay dependent on experience (£17-£20 per hour).
- NHS Pension Scheme
- Uniform provided
- 6 weeks (pro rata) annual leave plus bank holidays
- Training and CPD provided where necessary.

Closing date for applications 18/11/2021

Bellbrooke Surgery - We are a growing GP Practice looking for a new salaried GP for 5/6 sessions per week

We are a busy, well respected, innovative and high achieving GP Training Practice in Inner City Leeds with six GP partners, 6 salaried GPs, Advanced Nurse Practitioner and highly skilled nursing and administrative support. We train registrars, paramedics, apprentices, nurses and medical students. Our growing patient list tops 14500. Our financial position is strong. Our premises are modern with parking on site and a new extension just completed to add further clinical space. We have also just welcomed a pharmacy to our building. CQC rate us 'Good'. We aim for outstanding. We take a lead in local collaborative work.

As a salaried GP

Enjoy a protected and predictable workload allowing you to focus your time on patient care.

No on call or evening working requirement.

Minimal visits required as our ANP manages most of these

Opportunities to develop with a view to future partnership

Training is part of our ethos and we support your professional development including a structured 2 week induction programme, regular internal appraisal, help with training plans and guaranteed study leave and CPD time. We hold x2 clinical/educational meetings each week

In addition to consulting with patients there are opportunities to take time to pursue your own interests and we have GPs across the practice delivering sexual health clinics, clinical training at various levels, focusing on frailty and care of the housebound and others currently considering interests in dermatology and research. We currently employ a Trailblazer GP

And in terms of benefits: pay salaried GPs a competitive salary plus indemnity costs, utilising the BMA Model contract in our agreement with you. Annual leave: 6 weeks (pro rata)

Interested? Obtain a Welcome Pack, ask any questions you like by email or come for an informal visit (either ring to book in advance or via one of a series of open days to be held between 10.00 and 3.00 on each of the first 3 Fridays in November)

Contact – Andy Haigh, Business Manager. Apply via NHS Jobs

Telephone (direct dial) – 0113 391 8441; Email: andyhaigh@nhs.net;

By Post/Visit @ Bellbrooke Surgery, Bellbrooke Avenue Leeds LS9 6AU

Website : www.bellbrookesurgery.co.uk

Bellbrooke surgery

We are a growing GP Practice looking for a new GP Partner for 5/6 sessions per week

We are a busy, well respected, innovative and high achieving GP Training Practice in Inner City Leeds with six GP partners, 6 salaried GPs, Advanced Nurse Practitioner and highly skilled nursing and administrative support. We train registrars, paramedics, apprentices, nurses and medical students. Our growing patient list tops 14500. Our financial position is strong. Our premises are modern with parking on site and a new extension just completed to add further clinical space. We have also just welcomed a pharmacy to our building. CQC rate us 'Good'. We aim for outstanding. We take a lead in local collaborative work.

As a partner we will give you the structure and autonomy to shape your role and contribute to development of the practice from day one. We'd like you to share our genuine interest in developing primary care and addressing health inequalities. In addition to consulting with patients there are opportunities to take time to pursue your own interests and we have GPs across the practice delivering sexual health clinics, clinical training at various levels, focusing on frailty and care of the housebound and others currently considering interests in dermatology and research.

It's hard work but our experienced management and clinical team allows you to focus your efforts on doing what's best for the patient and delivering outstanding levels of care.

And in terms of benefits: We don't require any up front buy in for a new partner. Profits are good. You will have time for professional development (including x2 in house clinical meetings/education sessions per week) and have formal study leave. Annual leave: 6 weeks (pro rata)

Interested? Obtain a Welcome Pack, ask any questions you like by email or come for an informal visit (either ring to book in advance or via one of a series of open days to be held between 10.00 and 3.00 on each of the first 3 Fridays in November)

Contact – Andy Haigh, Business Manager. Apply via NHS Jobs

Telephone (direct dial) – 0113 391 8441; Email: andyhaigh@nhs.net;

By Post/Visit @ Bellbrooke Surgery, Bellbrooke Avenue Leeds LS9 6AU

Website : www.bellbrookesurgery.co.uk

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

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

