

# LMC ViewPoint

*The newsletter of Leeds Local Medical Committee Limited*

*12th February 2024*

## **GP Contract 2024/25 Update**

GPC England has rejected the formal contract from the DHSC (Department of Health and Social Care) and NHSE (NHS England) for the GMS contract for 2024-25. After consideration at its meeting on 1 February 2024, the committee unanimously voted that the current proposal, including a 1.9% uplift, is unacceptable. The committee was clear that in order to prevent practices from reducing services or closing down altogether, a contractual uplift sufficient to keep practice finances stable for the 'stepping-stone' contract year ahead is imperative.

Details of the contract come at a time when a BMA survey of 10% of practices in England found almost two in three (64%) report being concerned about their short and long-term viability, and more than half (57%) have experienced cashflow issues within the last 12 months.

The BMA have produced a [webpage](#) with everything you need to know about the current GP contract changes and what they plan to do next. An update from GPCE chair, Katie Bramall-Stainer can be seen [here](#).

## **NHS Pension Update Event**

Leeds LMC, with support of Wesleyan, are holding an evening meeting to provide an update on NHS Pension issues.

With many GPs receiving massive tax bills due to annual allowance issues, changes related to the McCloud judgement, and other pension related matters, the meeting will be an opportunity to hear a general update on the main NHS Pensions issues impacting GPs and to ask key questions.

The meeting will be held at the Village Hotel Leeds North, Headingley, Leeds LS16 on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2024. Registration and hot buffet will be served from 6:30pm, and the event will run from 7-9pm.

Please register your place by email to [mail@leedslmc.org](mailto:mail@leedslmc.org).

## **Additional CAPS, AARC & GP Out of Hours Capacity**

The LMC are pleased the ICB have increased CAPS and ARRC capacity in response to increased winter pressures experienced by practices, and the LMC would encourage practices to use the OPEL system to report their status and thereby enable a full picture for general practice to be evident.

## **Measles Update**

There has been a rise in Measles cases in England reported in 2023, with significant numbers of confirmed cases in Birmingham and Coventry in specific populations including teenagers, young people and unvaccinated / under vaccinated communities.

As of 5<sup>th</sup> February 2024, there are no confirmed measles cases in Leeds. However, this situation is likely to change over the coming weeks.

To achieve and maintain Measles elimination, WHO set the target of 95% uptake for both MMR1 at 2 years and 95% for MMR2 at 5 years. Leeds has an MMR1 at 2 years uptake rate of 88% and MMR2 rate at 5 years of 81%. The below table shows comparison to regional and national uptake rates.

	MMR1 (2 Years)	MMR1 (5 Years)	MMR2 (5 Years)
Leeds	88.0	91.5	81.0
Yorkshire and Humber	91.2	93.8	85.8
England	89.4	92.3	83.8

Following a [UKHSA risk assessment](#) published July last year, a [joint letter from UKHSA and NHS England](#) was sent to health professionals and Directors of Public Health in England. This was to prepare for the risk of a measles resurgence, particularly in London due to the sub-optimal uptake of the MMR vaccine in the capital and in some other communities around the country. The letter notes that outside of London, there is high risk of cases linked to overseas travel in specific population groups.

### **Identification of measles**

[UKHSA has produced a new poster](#) for health professionals to help them identify measles, what to do if they suspect measles and to ensure staff are fully vaccinated. Health professionals can download and order the poster for free via the health publications website. Please consider IPC precautions for any suspected Measles cases and follow the NHSE IPC guidance – the following action card is available in the NHSE guidance linked below. [Think Measles – primary care actions for screening, triage and management](#).

### **MMR call / recall**

The national MMR call / recall launched this week with those unvaccinated or partially vaccinated contacted. The communication went to parents of those aged 6 – 11 years across England and those 12- 16 years in London and the West Midlands.

As announced previously, further call / recall will continue throughout February and March for this cohort and cohorts aged 17-25 years in Manchester, West Midlands and London.

[A pack of communications information and assets is available for use in all primary care settings to assist in amplifying the MMR campaign.](#)

GPC England [wrote to NHS England](#) last week highlighting their serious concerns around the current measles outbreak and the need for urgent support and resources in general practice.

They explained how the increase in workload generated by patient queries, requests for vaccination history cross-checking, and unresourced catch-up vaccination clinics, seriously risks impacting upon practice service delivery. They reiterated the request and belief that lowering the thresholds for vaccination QOF payments would enable greater coverage, rather than the current financially punitive approach that is in place.

### **Covid vaccination programme**

NHS England has published an extension to the [COVID vaccination service specification](#) ahead of the proposed spring/summer booster programme. The specification remains mostly unchanged from the current autumn/winter programme; however, following discussions with GPC England, there will be an additional £2.50 payment per vaccination for vaccinations from April-August 2024, in addition to the £7.54 Item of Service fee. Whilst this move is welcome, we retain strong concerns about the future financial viability of the programme, and we again recommend that practices and their partners make a full assessment of whether delivery of the vaccination programme remains viable for them.

### **The Times Health Commission**

The [Times Health Commission report](#) was published this week, making some key recommendations for immediate future NHS commissioning, with a lot of attention focused on how IT and data isn't able to link up across NHS organisations. A seductive vision of all shared health

and care records and data in one place sounds good, but fundamental missing steps along the way risk making that distant dream an impossibility.

To free up millions of appointments, we need hospitals to be able to produce electronic prescriptions, and to be able to explain to a patient where they are in a queue after disappearing down a referral 'black hole'. Those of us working on the 'shop floor' of the NHS, stand ready to suggest many practical ways to improve financial efficiency and operational productivity (that won't cost us millions to implement) but which will need genuine integrated thinking outside of the acute hospital model. This is what we need, which we are glad to see recognised in this report.

The elephant in the room is resource, and we note difficult requests for detailed capital investment requirements are not outlined, which is a missed opportunity. GPC England believes that the million patients which GPs see every day recognise that if we are to make any progress, we need additional funds for additional activity, serving additional patients. We also need to recognise the forgotten millions on mental health waiting lists who aren't included in media headlines but who GP and community teams feel are being ignored, especially children and adolescent mental health need.

### **New Dental Recovery Plan**

On 7 February [a letter was sent to contractors and ICBs](#), outlining that a [joint NHS and Department of Health and Social Care \(DHSC\) plan to recover and reform NHS dentistry](#) has been published.

Some of the measures outlined include:

- NHS dentists will be given a 'new patient' payment of between £15-£50 (depending on treatment need) to treat patients who have not seen an NHS dentist in two years or more. This premium is in addition to the funding the practice would already receive for the course of treatment. Additional payments will begin from March 2024 and are time limited to end of financial year 2024/2025
- targeted funding to encourage dentists to work in areas which historically have been difficult to recruit to
- a further increase in the minimum indicative UDA value from the £23 announced in July 2022 to £28 from April 2024
- improving access in underserved areas through the use of dental vans

These changes are limited in their scope it is not clear what, if any, difference it will make to the difficulty accessing NHS dentistry in Leeds, something the LMC have recently raised with WY ICB.

### **Additional resources for practices on the Register with a GP surgery service**

NHSE have reported that over 2,300 (1 in 3) GP surgeries in England now offer the [Register with a GP surgery service](#), meeting the [commitment to improve access to primary care](#) and making registration easier for both patients and GP surgeries. Find out more about the service, including service benefits, how to sign up, instructional videos, and how to add optional extra questions. Practices can also [attend the 21 February webinar](#) or [read this feature article](#) which explores why practice staff are championing the service.

### **Over 35,000 volunteers available to support the NHS this winter**

The NHS and Care Volunteer Responders programme provides healthcare professionals with available, appropriately checked volunteers to support patients and people who need additional support in the community this winter. Services include friendly phone calls, transporting medicine and equipment from NHS sites to people at home, and picking up and delivering prescriptions and shopping.

[Sign up to a webinar to find out more about the programme](#). NHS teams can request support on behalf of a patient or someone in receipt of care. Referrals are available by calling 0808 196 3382 or [visiting the referral webpage](#).

### **NHS Jewish BRCA Testing Programme**

The [NHS Jewish BRCA Programme launched on 31 January. The programme provides genetic testing for BRCA1/2 for people with Jewish ancestry](#) (defined as having at least one Jewish grandparent), who are six times more likely to be a BRCA carrier than the general population. If anyone presents to their GP with questions, they should be given the link to the information page where they can register for a test, and advised they can call the genetic counselling hotline directly for support on 020 3437 6001.

### **Supporting patients who stammer or who are dysfluent**

STAMMA, a UK charity for people who stammer and their allies, conducted a survey in 2023 of their members' experiences when making a general practice appointment. The [published results highlight some of the difficulties that can be experienced when contacting their GP team](#), particularly by telephone. [A leaflet has been produced to help GP practices to improve interactions with people who stammer](#), reducing potential health inequalities and leading to better experience and health outcomes for patients.

### **2022/23 End of Year Pensions process webinars – register for new dates**

Please note revised dates for 2022/23 End of Year Pensions process webinars, in collaboration with NHS Pensions and the BMA. These sessions will cover how to submit Type 1 Annual Certificates and Type 2 Self Assessments:

- Type 1 Annual Certificates Tuesday 20 February 6.00 – 7.30pm
- Type 2 Self Assessment forms Wednesday 21 February 6.00 – 7.30pm
- Type 1 Annual Certificates Tuesday 12 March 6.00 – 7.30pm
- Type 2 Self Assessment forms Wednesday 13 March 6.00 – 7.30pm
- Type 2 Self Assessment forms Tuesday 26 March 6.00 – 7.30pm

As the 2022/23 forms published by NHS Pensions are different to previous years, we would encourage members and their advisors to sign up for one of the events even if you have used PCSE Online to complete and submit a certificate before.

[Register here](#) enter your email address and select a webinar.

### **CPD Funding 23/24 - £333 available for nursing associates, nurses, and allied health professionals (AHPs)**

The West Yorkshire Training Hub report that 29 practices have accessed CPD monies in 23/24. Funding is not automatic, and practices must submit a claim.

Claims can be made by one of the following two options:

1. The eligible person can select a maximum of 2 courses from the provider list and submit their request via the survey monkey link on page 5 of the programme guide (<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/F9RTB8Z>). These courses will be booked and fully funded through the Training Hub.
2. The eligible person books directly onto a chosen course/update/conference and submits a practice claim for re-imbursement. The practice claim form is on the very back page of the programme guide and will require name, email, role, course, course provider and cost. Once received and processed the re-imbursement of a maximum of £333 for each eligible person per financial year will be sent to the requested bank account.

Full details can be found within our 2023-24 CPD Funding Programme Guide by clicking [here](#) and are also available on our website along with a whole variety of information [www.yhtraininghubs.co.uk](http://www.yhtraininghubs.co.uk)

### **Primary Care Mental Health (LMWS) - Service Pressures Update**

PCMH Teams continue to receive 25% higher volume of referrals than usual & therefore there will still be a delay contacting & seeing patients across the city. The position has improved since November, however. Please continue to help the service manage patient expectations for contacts

& interventions – patients can be waiting up to 6-weeks before contact & patients in some cases may only be offered up to 3 sessions.

Please note waiting times to many Talking Therapy (IaPT) interventions have dropped over recent months. **See Link or attached PDF for full details** : [LMWS Referrer Update Feb 24](#)

*LMWS Relationship Manager* **Amelia Letima** [amelia.letima@nhs.net](mailto:amelia.letima@nhs.net)

*Clinical Head of Service PCMH* **Emily Trayhorn** [e.trayhorn@nhs.net](mailto:e.trayhorn@nhs.net)

Please see attached Primary Care Mental Health - capacity update

### **Community Diagnostic Centre (CDC) Update- Correction of dates from previous edition**

The LMC have continued to raise the importance of improving access to diagnostic services. The Community Diagnostic Centre (CDC) programme is being rolled out: -

- Seacroft: Seacroft CDC is operational and delivers Phlebotomy, Ultrasound, CT and MRI (through mobile units). The delivery of ECG and Sleep studies at Seacroft is due to begin in February 2024 and work is ongoing to install static CT capacity (this should be completed by May 2024).
- Beeston Village: construction work has begun, and we expect to open to patients in March 2024. Services available will include Phlebotomy, Ultrasound, Point of Care testing and Physiological testing. We are currently exploring possible options to provide Spirometry services at this site from April 2024.
- Armley Moor: contracts have been agreed and we expect construction work to begin within the next few weeks before opening to patients in June/July 2024. Services available will include Phlebotomy, Ultrasound, Point of Care testing and Physiological testing. We are currently exploring possible options to provide Spirometry services at this site when it is open.

### **TARGET February 2024**

The ICB have confirmed that practices can close for their TARGET afternoon in February and direct patients to contact 111 for urgent cases. The programme of new pre-recorded materials for colleagues to view with a mix of slightly longer sessions and the usual hot topics. Please find the programme attached.

The videos and slides for February 2024 are available on the TARGET webpage: [TARGET Programme for February 2024 – Leeds Health and Care Partnership – Primary Care Extranet \(leedsccg.nhs.uk\)](https://leedsccg.nhs.uk/target-programme-for-february-2024)

A list of new topics is below and for your convenience direct YouTube links to each video are also listed in the programme: -

- Flexible working 'The art of possible' guidance for line managers
- Health literacy awareness
- LTHT Patient Hub
- Oral nutritional supplementation (ONS)
- Post infection review learning – signs and symptoms of the deteriorating patient
- Pulmonary rehabilitation
- Safeguarding: primary care response to domestic abuse – DASH & MARAC
- The medical examiners service – an update for GPs

### **Leeds Women's & Gynaecology Network**

Anyone involved in healthcare in Leeds with an interest in women's health are welcome to join the Leeds Women's & Gynaecological Health Network. The network aims to bring together providers across the city to improve care for all women.

This network is open to anyone in Leeds who wants to contribute to progressing improvements around women's and gynaecological health, however we are particularly interested in finding



passionate clinical professionals in PCNs who would like to join us, share learning and take this agenda forwards.

The next meeting is on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> February 1-2:30pmin which we will be hearing about providing inclusive healthcare for women with LD, pharmacy based contraceptive services and updates on both the pharmacy led menopause service and the women's health hub. The one after this will be on the 3rd of April.

Please email Dr Natasha Hulson ([natasha.hulson@nhs.net](mailto:natasha.hulson@nhs.net)) or Eloise Pearson ([eloise.pearson1@nhs.net](mailto:eloise.pearson1@nhs.net)) for further information.

### **NHS Confed Expo 2024**

[Registration for NHS ConfedExpo 2024 is now open](#). The event, which NHS England delivers in partnership with NHS Confederation is taking place on the 12 and 13 June at Manchester Central. Senior leaders and their teams will come together to discuss key issues, share learning and best practice and make valuable new connections.

[Tickets are free for NHS, local authority and wider public sector staff.](#)

### **Retirement planning and volunteering information offer**

Looking for a volunteering opportunity with responsibility and challenge? Have you considered becoming a Magistrate? Perhaps you are retiring or reducing hours and want to continue to contribute to the community but in a voluntary role. Did you know that Magistrates need only commit to a minimum of 13 days per year and need no legal training but deal with over 93% of all adult criminal cases to completion. They also sit in Youth Crime and Family Courts. For more information check the following links, or email Dr Bruce Woodhouse (N+W Yorks Magistrate and retired GP) directly [bruce.woodhouse.jp@ejudiciary.net](mailto:bruce.woodhouse.jp@ejudiciary.net)

<https://magistrates.judiciary.uk/>

<https://www.magistrates-association.org.uk/about-magistrates/>

### **Greener Practice 2024 Meetings**

We would like to share details of the first 3 Greener Practice meetings for 2024!

The dates are:

- Mon 19<sup>th</sup> Feb - Active transport
- Thurs 14<sup>th</sup> March - Sustainability Guide for Primary Care
- May (date tbc) Deprescribing

For more information on how to join any of the meetings above, please get in touch by email at [mail@leedslmc.org](mailto:mail@leedslmc.org)

### **LMC Podcasts**

Please see the links below for the recent podcast hosted by the LMC. Please get in touch at [mail@leedslmc.org](mailto:mail@leedslmc.org) if there are podcast topics you would be interested in watching in the future.

#### Cameron Fund Podcast

<https://www.leedslmc.org/cameronfundpodcast>

#### LMC Buying Group Podcast

<https://www.leedslmc.org/lmcbuyinggrouppodcast>

### **Comings & Goings**

- Dr Francis Perez Carral is retiring from Fountain Medical Centre as a partner from February 2024. He will still be working part time as a ENT GPwSI and occasionally as a GP locum. We will all miss him and wish him all the very best in his semi-retirement.
- Dr Simon Hall will be retiring from Foundry Lane Surgery on 31.3.2024
- Chapeltown Family Surgery have appointed a new Reception Manager - Mia Kennedy.
- Armley Medical Practice say goodbye to Dr Racehl Baxfield who is relocating and leaving us for Pastures new, we have loved working with Dr Baxfield and thank her for her hard work and commitment to the practice, she will be missed.
- Armley Practice welcome Salaried GPs Dr Ayisha Eltilib, Dr Natalie Winfield and Dr Charlotte Sinclair we look forward to you all becoming a valuable part of our Armley Team!

**PLEASE VISIT OUR LMC WEBSITE FOR PRACTICE VACANCIES VIA THE LINK**

[Leeds LMC: Jobs](#)