

**From:** GPC Local Medical Committees discussion list [<mailto:LMC-L@LISTSERV.BMA.ORG.UK>] **On Behalf Of**  
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**Sent:** 17 November 2017 20:44  
**To:** [LMC-L@LISTSERV.BMA.ORG.UK](mailto:LMC-L@LISTSERV.BMA.ORG.UK)  
**Subject:** Weekly Update 17.11.17

Dear Colleagues

### **Scottish contract proposals**

On Monday Scottish GPC and the Scottish Government published the details of the proposals for major changes to the Scottish GP contract. This follows a lot of hard work over the last two years by Alan McDevitt and members of SGPC. Throughout the negotiation their priority was to secure reduced business risk and reduced workload for GPs. If implemented, it is intended that contract changes would take place over two phases. A first phase starting in April 2018 would see initial changes made, with a second phase of changes taking place after a second poll of the profession in 2021. Full details can be found here: <https://www.bma.org.uk/collective-voice/committees/general-practitioners-committee/gpc-scotland/contract-negotiations-Scotland>

SGPC are now engaged in a series of roadshow events to discuss details with GPs across Scotland and this will be followed by a special conference of Scottish LMCs on 1 December. There will then be a poll of the profession which will run between 7 December and 4 January to ask all GPs and GP trainees working in Scotland whether they think the proposed contract should be implemented.

**Securing expertise to support practices and LMCs exploring working at scale in England**

We know that at a time when General Practice is under unprecedented pressure, and when practices are closing on a weekly basis, that the partnership model of General Practice is under genuine threat. GPC policy is to maintain and develop the independent contractor status of general practice, and the partnership model is the main way this is achieved. To maintain this, increasing numbers of practices are exploring entering into larger partnership arrangements. However, many practices, particularly those under pressure and under-staffed (and sometimes in “last person standing” type situations) don’t entirely know how to go about doing that or have the necessary contacts to help them.

We know that many LMCs have developed some really innovative and useful support systems for their practices in this area and I have attended a number of events organised by LMCs to help practices with practical advice. In addition the BMA offers practices a legal service to help practices draw up contracts to support them enter into partnership arrangements (ranging from small partnerships of two or three practices to much larger “super-partnership” type arrangements).

Following some of the regional meetings we have been involved in, some practices have expressed an interest in more specific support or opportunity to explore their options further, before making any decisions to move to develop formal contractual arrangements. How GPC could help LMCs and practices better meet this need is something I have been talking to policy leads and GPDF directors about in recent weeks.

I would therefore like to convene a small group of doctors (whose time would be funded) who have extensive expertise and experience of involvement in practice mergers, creating federations and/or large partnership arrangements. It is essential that they are also GPs who have a deep understanding of the central importance of the relationships between GPC, LMCs and practices in England, and who would work closely with LMCs (because that’s where the local knowledge and understanding lies) to

advise practices on the different types of models which are available and the practical steps that would need to be taken to move forward in a way that would best suit them.

To that end, we are now seeking expressions of interest from any doctors who are both potentially interested in being a part of that panel, and feel that they have the required knowledge and experience of developing new models of care and ways of working, to help their colleagues across the country in this practical way. If you know of such GPs please pass this request on to them.

I must underline that it is absolutely not the intention that the panel will be pushing or advocating for any one particular working model. After all, one size does not fit all, and circumstances across the country differ far too widely for us to take that approach, and that being the case we will be interested in hearing from a range of colleagues with a range of different experiences.

Please contact Richard Pursand at [rpursand@bma.org.uk](mailto:rpursand@bma.org.uk) if you are interested in discussing the role further.

### **Saving General Practice**

All those at the Conference of England LMCs will be aware that we launched our report, Saving General Practice, last week. This highlights the challenges facing general practice and the urgent action required by the Government and other bodies to address them. It sets the course in defining strategies to do this, and provides the Government with a GP-designed roadmap to solve the crisis in general practice and deliver the outcomes patients deserve. You can find details linked to this in my weekly email to GPs in England: <http://bma-mail.org.uk/JVX-5AJB4-6B36IQY55B/cr.aspx> The email also includes details about our support for Self Care Week and links to the LMC conference webcast.

The report has already formed the basis of article in the Financial Times which explored the pressures facing doctors this winter focusing in particular on general practice. I was quoted as saying “We have a healthcare system that is currently stretched to breaking point, and in some areas has broken already. It simply doesn’t have the spare capacity to be able to respond to a major influenza outbreak without seriously impacting other areas of our work.” I also wrote an exclusive opinion piece for [The Yorkshire Post](#) arguing general practice requires more investment.

### **PCSE/Capita**

Thank you for recently providing us with information about the number of ongoing difficulties with PCSE/Capita which formed the basis of my letter to Simon Stevens. To support our continued efforts to resolve the many problems LMCs, practices and GPs still face with the poor level of service they are receiving from PCSE we want to try to gauge the severity of the problems. Earlier today we sent out a letter with links to three short surveys which we hope LMCs are able to circulate using your local contacts. We will ensure the issues identified by Mike Forster are addressed. Please encourage as many responses to the surveys as possible. I've attached it again to this email.

### **Sessional GPs working in new models of care**

The Sessional GPs subcommittee (working with the Health Policy team) has published a new focus on document for salaried GPs working under new models of care and it can be found here: <https://www.bma.org.uk/collective-voice/committees/general-practitioners-committee/sessional-gps-subcommittee/salaried-gps-working-under-new-models-of-care>

### **Supporting GP trainees and training practices**

We recently published additional guidance on the BMA website to support GP Trainees and GP Practices with understanding the new 2016 junior doctor contract, which can be found here: <https://>

[www.bma.org.uk/advice/employment/gp-practices/gps-and-staff/guidance-for-gp-practices-on-the-2016-junior-doctors-contract](http://www.bma.org.uk/advice/employment/gp-practices/gps-and-staff/guidance-for-gp-practices-on-the-2016-junior-doctors-contract)

In addition to previous guidance, we've uploaded an example work template that incorporates OOH working, a practice FAQ and a document comparing the new 2016 contract with the previous 2002 one.

### **GPC England meeting**

We had a meeting of GPC England yesterday. We will be sending out GPC News to you in the usual way on Monday, which will also contain detailed updates from each of the GPC Policy Groups on their work over the last few months. This reflects what we heard from you at the LMC Secretaries Conference in October, when you told us that you wanted GPC News to include more substantive updates on the work of GPC.

Finally, thanks to Peter Graves and colleagues at Beds and Herts LMC for their welcome when I attended a well attended evening meeting for local GPs on Tuesday in Hatfield.

Have a good weekend

Richard