

From: GPC Local Medical Committees discussion list [<mailto:LMC-L@LISTSERV.BMA.ORG.UK>] **On Behalf Of**
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Sent: 15 September 2017 18:37
To: LMC-L@LISTSERV.BMA.ORG.UK
Subject: Weekly Update

Dear colleagues

This week we have published our analysis of the [funding of general practice in England](#). You may recall that In 2016 [the BMA called for 11% of the NHS budget in England](#) to be invested in general practice, to tackle the growing crisis caused by nearly a decade of underinvestment by successive governments. A little over one year on, we are reviewing the outlook for general practice funding in England between now and 2020/21, and considering whether planned investment over the coming four years as part of the General Practice Forward View (GPFV) is likely to meet our 11% target.

Sadly, our analysis shows that even if the GPFV funding is delivered in full, investment in general practice is likely to fall significantly short of that 11% target. We will publish further analysis of the financial outlook for general practice once new GP investment statistics are published by NHS Digital next week.

On Wednesday we also published an analysis of the GP Earnings and Expenses Report 2015/16. You can find links to the report and my response in the weekly bulletin sent to GPs and found here <http://bma-mail.org.uk/JVX-55X9T-6B36IQY55B/cr.aspx>

Although this briefing has not been produced with the intention of wide circulation, please feel free to share all or part of the resource with local GPs where this seems appropriate. The headline from the report clearly shows a near decade long financial squeeze on GP practices which is leaving many with a demotivated, understaffed workforce that is constantly struggling to deliver safe patient care on inadequate levels of funding. At a time when there is justified and rising anger at the government's prolonged 1% pay cap policy, the reality for GPs across the UK is that we've had on average a further 1.2% pay cut, or a 1.9% cut if the median is used. The BMA's press office will be happy to help LMCs with local press work where necessary.

Yesterday I chaired the first GPC UK meeting of the session. You can read more about the agenda for that meeting in the usual post GPC meeting update which has just been sent to you. As you would expect we spent time yesterday discussing our [practice list closure survey results](#). We agreed that we will use the survey to continue to lobby the government for urgent action to address the crisis facing the profession ahead of the LMC England conference in November. As you know, GPC has repeatedly made it clear since the publication of our survey that the results sounded a clear warning signal that the government must not ignore about the need to urgently address the incredible pressures bearing down on general practice. The decision by seven practices in Folkestone, alongside a growing number of others around the country, to apply for list closures demonstrates how real this problem is.

You can also find details of the response to the survey in the Sessional GPs newsletter [here](#). Please circulate this to GPs in your area.

At yesterday's meeting we also had a detailed and helpful discussion about the development of online/virtual GP services. It's clear that it's an area we need to understand and develop clear policy on, and to do that it would be really helpful if you could share your views and experiences of this developing

area, either through debate here in the list or send them through to us at abolton@bma.org.uk. Your insights are important to us and will form the foundation of our policy in this area going forwards.

Following GPC UK, I had a meeting with Simon Stevens, the chief executive of the NHS in England, where I emphasised the urgency of resolving the issues around indemnity, as well discussing several other issues such as the importance of securing recurrent funding to expand the workforce in a sustainable way and our serious concerns about NHS England's flawed peer referral plans.

LMCs in England should be aware of the publication today of an amendment regulation to the GMS/PMS contract. This relates to those elements of the 17/18 GMS and PMS contract changes that were planned for October. It has now been [laid](#) before Parliament and will come into effect on 7th October.

Finally I would like to congratulate Keith McIntyre, Ashok Rayani and Paul Roblin who have been elected and Peter Holden who was re-elected to the GPDF board at today's AGM. Congratulations too to Dougy Moederle Lumb who has become the chair of the board. Stewart Kay and Gill Beck have both left the GPDF board and I would like to thank both of them for their work.

Best wishes

Richard