

LMC Committee March 2022- Update for practices

Lincolnshire LMC representative members meet with the secretariate monthly to obtain updates on progress from the previous month, hear from invited guest speakers, discuss relevant events, issues, and hot topics, and make decisions regarding future actions.

The table below is intended to inform you about the main points provided to the LMC Committee during the last meeting.

Topic	Update
Speaker 1: Dr Colin Farquharson, (CF), ULHT Medical Director	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LMC Committee was introduced to the ULHT Medical Director Dr Colin Farquharson, CF, who provided information regarding his previous experience. CF is a cardiologist who has worked for several health services around the globe giving him a unique perspective. • CF spoke about the challenge to future-proof the NHS and the opportunity to capitalise on the ICS structure to streamline pathways and improve outcomes for patients. CF provided the committee with some examples of how Lincolnshire can work together such as holding community-based specialist clinics such as cardiology or headache clinics. • The need for equity of care across the county was acknowledged, the hope is that the ICB will enable services to be focussed in the areas they are needed based on population needs. • Committee discussed the importance of empowering relevant people within the ICS to make changes needed and being appropriately resourced to make improvements happen. • Committee asked CF whether ULHT would support GPs to do additional training in their field interest. CF informed the Committee this would be decided on a case-by-case basis depending on resources and advised GPs to ask.
Speaker 2: Stephen Pitwell, (SP), from NHS Digital and Neil Dobson, (ND), from Arden & GEM	<p>SP and ND answered IT related questions and provided the Committee with an update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why practice staff no longer have privileged access to get minor IT tasks done, (for example, clearing a printer backlog): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Committee were informed of the need to have security safeguards in place and a clear audit trail. Staff must comply with the 'Cyber Essentials Plus criteria. SP is currently waiting to see whether it will be possible to get selected practice staff, (who have had suitable training), co-opted to have Arden-GEM status. Practice staff can already obtain 'privileged access' in advance for specific tasks for a limited time. Practices can also raise a ticket to complete a task if practice staff do not have necessary permissions. ○ SP now has a member of Arden & GEM staff working directly for him so if a practice has an urgent IT issue this staff member will be able to help. • Arden & GEM ticket back-log issues have now been resolved so the service should be working more quickly. • Clinical systems will be due for renewal next year (2023). The future goal is to make it as easy to switch systems as it is to switch energy providers. • There is an offer to all practices to get a new website using Frank Design. The aim is to standardise websites for patient continuity. • NHS Digital will be storing patient records off site and they will be digitised on demand.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Online consultation services: Funding has been secured for another year. It is likely that practices will have an agreement directly with the provider and the practice will be able to claim reimbursement from the CCG.
Covid-19	FAQ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular updates on-going available at LMC website
	Covid Vaccine <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Changes to vaccine schedule regularly updated and available at https://future.nhs.uk/CovidVaccinations/view?objectId=31770448 Very low uptake in 5-11 year olds at risk (6%) 5-11 not at risk to be done by MVSs
Flu 2022	NHS England and NHS Improvement has published guidance about reimbursable vaccines and eligible cohorts for the 2022/23 flu vaccination programme.
STP/ CCG	ICS development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concerns raised by LMC about GP representation to ICS board. Similar concerns also raised by Pharmacy, Dentistry, and Optometry colleagues
	Protected Learning Time <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CCG moving forward with reintroducing PLT to the county for all practice roles. Likely to be organised by Lincolnshire Training Hub with support of the LMC CCG keen to get GP/ practice in-put regarding how and what training should be offered. Looking at hybrid delivery to maximise access for all staff. Also looking at GP and reception cover and funding possibilities. Still very early stages so no timeline yet.
	Planned care <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Virtual consultations discussed at Planned Care and Diagnostic Cell. Issues raised by multiple GPs about the impact this has on patients and practices. Processes for prescriptions and tests to be organised now being looked into. CCG and ULHT working on current contracting round- LMC suggested having EPS as a contractual requirement. Various specialties have particularly long waiting lists: colorectal, dermatology, ENT, and neurology
	Clinical Pathways <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing wrangling regarding rolling out pathways for gastro, rheumatology, breast screening, dermatology because there is currently no protected learning time to educate general practice teams about them.
	111 First <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minor trauma pathway is in development, update awaited from CCG
	Practice resilience <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Task Force GPAS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> GPAS slight delay due to issue with the SystmOne GPAS search, this has now been rectified. 12 practices signed up for the pilot so far. Roll out of the pilot will commence on 5th April. Recruitment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> HSJ article highlights that Lincolnshire is 36th lowest ICS in terms of GPs/100,000 patient (4.4)
	Enhanced services/DCAs

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LMC feedback re treatment room, leg ulcer, and complex wound ES provided. Financial modelling awaited.
Palliative and End of Life Care	<p>ReSPECT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New ReSPECT form being introduced which guides more regarding ReSPECT conversation • Training package being developed to improve quality of ReSPECT
CQC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access inspections now suspended.
Pharmacy	<p>GP Community Pharmacy Consultation Scheme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding for pharma outcomes app requested from CCG to improve communication
Primary Secondary Care Interface	<p>LPFT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Still working on standard referral letter and standard letter from psychiatrists • Internal LPFT interface issues also being worked through especially with Crisis Resolution Service • Eating Disorder Service transformation work still ongoing, LMC engaging especially around physical health monitoring • CAMHS requesting GPs to make onward referrals highlighted to LMC and will take this up with LPFT
	<p>LCHS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blood tests <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Still working through routes for community teams to have access to their own requested tests, these should not be coming to practices • Trainee sessions at UTCs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Only 55% of available training slots actually booked by trainees, so these are being under-utilised. • A2A <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Practices should not need to complete A2A forms for non-injectable items but are still being asked to do this. ○ Practices can use SystmOne template for A2A instead of paper form. Working with LCHS to get similar process for EMIS practices.
Councils	<p>Coroner/Medical examiner</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changes to death certification were made in 2020 when the Coronavirus Act 2020 went through parliament. The Coronavirus Act 2020 expired at midnight on 24th March 2022 therefore some of the processes have reverted back to what they were prior to the pandemic. • There is a useful 10-minute slideshow available on the RCGP website which outlines the changes to do with death certification and cremation forms as well as providing a reminder about which professionals can verify deaths. • Click this link to view the slideshow and access related resources.
	<p>Health Checks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health checks not paused, or payment protected. LA awaiting National steer regarding this.
Child protection	<p>Safeguarding funding proposal.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CCG have not agreed funding proposal for safeguarding reports. Practices should continue to invoice CCG for time spent to complete reports. <p>Liberty safeguards</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DOLS being replaced by Liberty Protection Safeguards in April 2022- https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/liberty-protection-safeguards-factsheets/liberty-protection-safeguards-what-they-are • LMC has asked Safeguarding team to provide some online training
Trainees	<p>Visas for GPTs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is a hot topic at NHSEI so hopefully will see more support for GP trainees who require visa at CCT. <p>Travel Expenses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GP trainee's excess mileage is currently paid by HEE via the lead employer. GP Trainees believe that a review of the reimbursement rate is due as costs have been rising dramatically. GP trainees ask Lincs LMC to support them with this request.
LMC Practice Calls/ Visits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LMC continues to make courtesy calls to practices offer support and gather feedback. Many practices have not been available to talk due to pressures in practice however the LMC continues to reach out. • FAQs & weekly updates continue to be well received and feedback about the LMC is generally very positive. • LMC are planning to restart practice visits soon. If a practice would like the LMC to join one of their clinical or team meetings, please contact info@lincslmc.co.uk
Wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take-30 is a service available to all practice staff providing support to work through daily challenges. This is a useful resource that practice managers can signpost practice staff to. • Impact Lincs is the LMCs Mentoring & Coaching service also available to all practice staff. • Wellbeing pages available on LMC website.
LMC Development Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The LMC training and events page will continue to be updated throughout the year. • New LMC Podcasts covering a wide range of both clinical and non-clinical topics. Latest podcasts include a whole series on liver disease, an episode on 'rheumatology referral forms' and another on 'using EPACS in primary care'. • Educational webinars are also available via the LMC website the latest one being an update for GPs and practice managers about contract changes and the Lincolnshire ICS.
Lincolnshire GP Society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LMC has started Lincolnshire GP Society. The next meeting will be taking place on Thursday 5th May 2022 in Louth, Sleaford and Lincoln. • This meeting will be focussing on GP Pensions, there will be a short, pre-recorded session and a live Q&A with our speaker. If you have specific questions relating to GP Pensions, please feel free to send it to us in advance so we can find the answer for you. • Dinner included. • To secure your place click the link above, please ensure you let us know which location you will be attending.
Rebuild General Practice Campaign	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committee discussed the Rebuild General Practice campaign. Main points: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ There are six and a half thousand GPs currently using the Practitioner Health Service, most of which are due to system pressures, and additional pressures such as CQC & CCG inspections. ○ Committee agreed that this is a positive campaign and all were in support.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Lincolnshire LMC secretariate will share campaign information and resources with practices in due course.
GPs With Extended Roles (GPWER)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● This would predominantly be for newly qualified GPs who want to pursue special interests to develop portfolio careers and job opportunities. There is evidence that shows GPs with portfolio careers are more likely to work longer with less sickness due to burnout or stress. ● Committee discussed possible challenges, LMC plan to investigate the points listed below further: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The need for accreditation locally, (Lincoln Medical School), as GPs are often required to travel long distances for an accredited qualification. ○ capacity for ULHT to facilitate placements. ○ The need to identify skills gaps across the county to maximise the impact of specialist skills acquired.
The Cameron Fund	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Lincolnshire LMC raised The Cameron Fund, a charity that supports GPs and their families facing financial difficulties by providing interest free loans and grants. The Committee agreed to make a donation as the Lincolnshire LMC has not contributed in recent years.