

April 2010

## Special Edition Newsletter for General Practice Nurses

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### A roundup from Londonwide LMCs' first General Practice Nurse conference.

**"We are stronger together"** said Dr Michelle Drage, joint chief executive of Londonwide LMCs, as she opened the organisation's first pan-London general practice nurse conference, held on the 17 March 2010. And in doing so she set the scene for the day ahead: working together, finding a way to work in partnership and supporting GPNs.

Dr Michelle Drage's opening speech highlighted the fact that Local Medical Committees represent whole practice teams, including the 3000 GPNs across the capital. Dr Drage said that both GPs and GPNs will face ongoing reforms in a stronger position if they work together, with the other members of the practice teams, to secure the future of general practice. Whilst reiterating Londonwide LMCs' awareness of GPN issues, she outlined the actions being taken by the organisation to support GPNs in their roles as vital members of the practice team unit.

Maureen Davies, deputy chief nurse, NHS London, shared her views on the reality of healthcare in London and suggested that "if you feel you are an equal, you will be treated as an equal." Pauline Watts, project director at the CNO Directorate, Department of Health, outlined the need for the development of GPN education. A topic previously highlighted at the DH's 2010 summit. Watts reported that the DH are presently working hard to align career frameworks across the sector.

### Demonstrating leadership

Jeannett Martin, the very popular and well received editor in chief of *Practice Nursing* followed, speaking at length about the role of GPNs in the practice and providing practical examples of how nurses can bring about change. Martin suggested that leadership is born through a number of principles: being informed; caring; having a vision of what you want to achieve; going public; involving others; enabling participation and reporting back to those that get involved or have an interest.

Following the morning's refreshment and networking break, during which attendees had the chance to meet a range of carefully selected exhibitors, delegates returned to the auditorium for a practical

talk on how a GPN successfully developed a service and implemented it in her practice from Chris Turnbull, clinical governance lead, NHS Cambridge and Queen's nurse.

### New training programme unveiled

Then came the highlight of the day for Londonwide LMCs and, we hope, for attendees. Sue Crossman, education consultant, unveiled the organisation's latest offering to GPNs – the new General Practice Nurse Training Programme. Read on for more details.

The morning was rounded off with a provocative and thought provoking presentation by Paul Vaughan, regional director for the Royal College of Nursing, on how to survive and thrive in general practice nursing.

### Practical workshops

The afternoon was filled with practical workshops on diabetes, breathlessness and leadership, all of which proved to be very popular. But don't take our word for it, hear what your GPN colleagues had to say:

- **Diabetes** – "The diabetes workshop was wonderful and has given me impetus to change our service and improve."
- **Breathlessness** – "Breathlessness was very good I will be contacting Bev Cox for future advice."
- **Leadership** – "The workshop's excellent."

The conference was brought to a close by a talented trio of actors from The Harry Partnership, who provided a light-hearted end to the day with a couple of sketches illustrating how to assert yourself in a work situation.

### Securing the future

As the 120 delegates prepared to leave, many could be overheard talking about how they would put their new skills and ideas into practice. And we were hopeful that delegates left the conference feeling supported by Londonwide LMCs, armed with some of the tools they needed to continue the development of their vital roles in general practice. Roles that are so crucial in the battle to secure the future of general practice in London.

**Quick questionnaire** - If you couldn't make this conference we would be grateful if you would take a couple of minutes to help answer a few questions by completing this quick [online survey](#).

## Londonwide LMCs launches General Practice Nurse Training Programme for the capital's nurses.

As part of our ongoing development of practice support, Londonwide LMCs has recently launched its newest offering to general practice nurses (GPNs) and it takes the form of an online training programme. The programme consists of a dedicated website that will cover topics such as immunisations, sexual health, mental health and long-term conditions, as well as general treatment room skills and career development. In addition, students will be invited to attend to face-to-face taught days and they will have access to online tutor support and forums.

**How it works** – The programme is simple to use and can be completed at your own speed. We estimate this will take an average of 6 months, a total of 40 hours per nurse. Students can check their progress at any point and certificates can be printed at the end of the programme, once all self-assessment tasks have been completed.

### Benefits of using this exclusive training programme –

- Tailored training at your fingertips
- Access to online one-to-one academic support and a wide range of further sources
- Two face-to-face taught days with renowned GPN tutors
- The material can be completed at your own pace

**Value for money** – The training programme offers real value for money by providing a standard approach to general practice nursing that has a limited impact on time away from the surgery. It may also provide a potential increase in patient satisfaction and improvements in the day-to-day functioning of the practice.

We hope as many of you as possible will consider registering for this training programme, which costs just £450 per nurse.

### Events

[Practice Nurse Workshop on Public Health](#), 25 May 2010, General Chiropractic Council, 44 Wicklow Street, London WC1X 9HL.

Our first practice nurse workshop of the year is called public health. This workshop will be led by Sue Cross, Practice Nurse Advisor to Londonwide LMCs and will cover such areas as blood-borne viruses, domestic violence and cardiac vascular disease.

The cost for attendance is £50 for practice nurses from Londonwide practices and £60 for practice nurses from other areas. Places are limited so if you would like to attend please contact Marie Vassallo  
([mvassallo@lmc.org.uk](mailto:mvassallo@lmc.org.uk))

### Practice Nurse Vacancy

There is presently a [Practice Nurse vacancy](#) at Old Kent Road Surgery, SE1. The deadline for this position is 31 May. For more details visit our [website](#).

