



## To All London Practices supported by Londonwide LMCs

Dear Colleague,

### The National GP Contract and Primary Care Networks

Together with your LMC, Londonwide LMCs strongly supports the development of your Primary Care Network (PCN) as part of the implementation of the new National GP Contract, which has been negotiated in the form of a DES within the Statement of Financial Entitlement (SFE), ensuring the protection of the law and the integral involvement of the LMC.

We want to help you ensure that under the contract, your PCN of fellow practices is focussed on:

- a) developing services around you that support your patient flows to wider community and care services to help you manage your workload, and
- b) providing direct support to your practice and fellow practices through additional support staff which, in the first year will include clinical pharmacists in many cases in post, and 'social prescriber linkworkers'.

In essence the desire is that your PCN focusses on creating a wider multi-disciplinary primary care team to support your practices to manage demand to improve staff well-being, and meet the needs of patients. That is the prime purpose and function of the PCN. Whilst it is for practices to agree the configuration of a PCN, it is essential that we all work to the principle of 'function over form' if we are to get the best out of this contractual opportunity that has been nationally negotiated by the GPC with the Government. In London we already have a helpful springboard in the recently published [Next Steps to the Strategic Commissioning Framework](#), on which Londonwide LMCs worked closely with NHS England London, and the 32 CCGs within the five STPs. We are clear on our objective; to create an environment which can [sustain the values](#) of general practice in the future system. Our role in London is to support our PCNs and federations so that they can align to form strong GP-values based relationships in order to secure the future of general practice within the new collaborative world of integrated care systems.

Our staff and elected LMC officers have a wealth of knowledge and experience across the whole spectrum of primary care, as well as access to a national network of specialist advice and support, and we can offer independent and impartial expert advice on:

- Government policy and initiatives and how they are likely to impact locally – the LMC has specific roles and responsibilities set out in the GP Contract working with CCGs and NHS England with regard to the establishment of PCNs.
- All contractual matters, including implementation of the new GP Contract.
- Practice stability and resilience in terms of workforce, workflow and cashflow.
- Practice relationships with the emerging PCNs.
- The configuration of PCNs, network agreements and governance arrangements within PCNs.
- Employment issues, including arrangements for the recruitment of the new staff groups across the PCNs – we have expert HR and employment law support.

**Londonwide LMCs** is the brand name of Londonwide Local Medical Committees Limited

Registered and office address: Tavistock House South, Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9LG. T. 020 7387 2034/7418

F. 020 7383 7442 E. [info@lmc.org.uk](mailto:info@lmc.org.uk) [www.lmc.org.uk](http://www.lmc.org.uk)

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**Chief Executive:** Dr Michelle Drage



- Organisational development work to build relationships and trust between the staff groups and organisations involved in the existing localities / integrated neighbourhood teams /integrated care centres as they transform into PCNs.
- Training – we currently operate a portfolio of training initiatives and could tailor training to the emerging needs of PCNs.

It continues to be our aim to work collaboratively with all general practice entities in London, and to offer our continued support and advice to meet your specific needs as individuals, practices and PCNs. In the meantime, please do read the attached guidance on each aspect of the new contract arrangements.

We will continue to update these documents as new details are released. The devil is in the detail; ensure that you have a practice lead manager or colleague who is on top of it, and as always, please do not hesitate to [contact me](#).

Yours sincerely,

**Dr Michelle Drage**  
**CEO, Londonwide LMCs**

Briefings include:

- Practice Funding Settlement
- The Primary Care Networks (PCNs) and the Primary Care Network Contract DES
- Additional Roles Reimbursement Scheme (ARRS) and Other Workforce Support
- Indemnity and the Clinical Negligence Scheme for General Practice (CNSGP)
- Network National Service Specifications and the NHS Long Term Plan
- QOF
- Integrating Urgent Care Services
- IT/'Digital First'
- Miscellaneous Contract Changes