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1. Life after the election – Securing the future of London’s general practice
Secretary of State Andrew Lansley delivered a [speech at the BMA conference](https://www.bma.org.uk) in Brighton at the end of June.

He outlined five key priorities which were:

1. Patients must be at the heart of everything – as more than simply beneficiaries of care, but as participants in its design.
2. The NHS must be focused on achieving continuously improving outcomes for patients – not inputs or processes, but results.
3. Clinicians must be empowered – those responsible for patient care – to deliver those improvements.
4. In order to improve overall health outcomes and make the demands on the NHS more sustainable, we must prioritise prevention and create a public health service.
5. We must reform social care alongside healthcare – and deliver closer integration in how services are commissioned and provided.
In addition, he emphasised the importance of clinical freedom, management cost reductions and removing bureaucracy as part of the need to direct more resources to frontline care, in return for which GPs will need to be prepared to take control and responsibility for clinical decision making within the resources available.

These key points are very much in line with our own messages which we issued to you on 22 June 2010 which are:

- Supporting the clinical generalist role of the GP
- Emphasising the key role of the patient consultation, with more (not reduced) time to meet the complex needs of patients along with direct access to the fullest range of diagnostic services
- Rebalancing the transformation agenda by supporting, not threatening, practices
- An end to excessive bureaucracy and heavy-handed micromanagement
- Supporting the development of collaborative working between practices
- Empowering GP commissioning including budget-holding
- Resisting vertical integration of general practice and other parts of primary and community care within predatory Foundation and other hospital trusts

We will keep you updated with further developments.

2 New government, new focus on frontline general practice – are your staff prepared? Londonwide LEAD (Learning Education and Development) is here to help

Are you investing in your most valuable asset, your staff, to build stronger teams and deal with the challenging times ahead?

We would particularly encourage you to consider reviewing your skill mix and investing in your practice staff to empower them to assist in the delivery of better frontline general practice.

There are a number of training opportunities coming up for GPs, practice managers, practice nurses and healthcare assistants:

- **New complaints process workshop – Tuesday 20 July 2010, 1.00pm to 5.00pm**
  Audience: GPs and practice managers
  Venue: Woburn House Conference Centre, 20 Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9HQ
  Cost: £90
  Course details: Following numerous requests, we will be repeating an updated workshop on the new complaints process. This will include updates from the Medical Protection Society and Pohwer, a question and answer panel and acted out case studies.
  Contact: To reserve your place, complete the booking form and send it to Karen Cooper (kcooper@lmc.org.uk) at Londonwide LMCs, Tavistock House North, Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9HX.

- **RCGP EASE (Education and Support Evening) – Thursday 12 August 2010, 7.30pm to 8.45pm**
  Audience: GPs
  Venue: RCGP, 14 Princes Gate, Hyde Park, London SW7 1PU
  Cost: Free
  Course details: Dr Paddy Glackin, Londonwide LMCs’ Medical Director and practising GP, will be participating in a free evening educational session on the role of the LMC, how we can help you and how you can help us, plus issues affecting general practice. This is a great opportunity for networking.
and support.

Contact: To reserve your place please email Debbie Board, the administrator for the North and West London Faculty at nwlondon@rcgp.org.uk.

- **Are you maximising your QOF? – preparing for the QOF year – Thursday 16 September 2010, 1.00pm to 5.00pm**
  
  **Audience:** GPs and practice managers  
  **Venue:** Woburn House Conference Centre, 20 Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9HQ  
  **Cost:** £90

**Course details:** Following requests from practices we will be holding an interactive workshop on QOF. Please let us know if there are any topics that you would like covered in particular by emailing your ideas to lwilliams@lmc.org.uk. There are 70 places available. This will be a chargeable event, fee to be agreed.

Contact: Please register your interest now, to avoid disappointment, by emailing Marie Vassallo (mvassallo@lmc.org.uk) at Londonwide LMCs.

- **Public health workshop – Tuesday 12 October 2010**
  
  **Audience:** Practice nurses  
  **Venue:** General Chiropractic Council, 44 Wicklow Street, London WC1X 9HL  
  **Cost:** £50 for practice nurses from Londonwide practices and £60 for practice nurses from other areas.

**Course details:** This workshop covers men’s health, prevention of teenage pregnancies and women’s health. Attendance at this workshop will be particularly helpful for those practices participating in sexual health local enhanced services (LESs).

Contact: There are 50 places available at this event. Look out for the booking form which is coming soon. You can also contact Marie Vassallo (mvassallo@lmc.org.uk) at Londonwide LMCs to book your place now!

- **Free employment law update webinar for practice managers – Friday 15 October 2010, 1.00pm to 2.00pm**
  
  **Audience:** Practice managers  
  **Venue:** From wherever you can access a PC  
  **Cost:** Free of charge

**Course details:** In light of the new government policy changes due in the next few months, Clarkson Wright and Jakes (CWJ) LLP are providing a free lunchtime webinar for GPs and practice managers on employment law updates. The webinar will last for approximately one hour and you will be able to access the learning without leaving your practice.

Please register now, to avoid disappointment by emailing Marie Vassallo (mvassallo@lmc.org.uk) at Londonwide LMCs, Tavistock House North, Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9HX.

- **General practice workshop – January 2011**
  
  **Audience:** Practice nurses  
  **Venue:** To be confirmed  
  **Cost:** To be confirmed

**Course details:** This workshop will cover smoking, alcohol, obesity and polysystems.

Contact: There are 50 places available at this event. A booking form and further details will be available soon. You can also contact Marie Vassallo (mvassallo@lmc.org.uk) at Londonwide LMCs to book your place now!
- **Workshop on practice skill mix including the role of healthcare assistants in general practice – January 2011**
  - **Audience:** GPs, practice nurses and healthcare assistants
  - **Venue:** To be confirmed
  - **Cost:** To be confirmed
  - **Course details:** Professor Sue Cross, who successfully chaired the recent General Practice Nurse Conference, ‘Celebrating Success’ will be running a half day workshop in January 2011.

  This workshop will support you to review your current skill mix and consider how to improve care for patients including redesigning roles in general practice or developing a new role such as a healthcare assistant.

  Please let us know if there are any topics you would like covered in particular by emailing your ideas to lwilliams@lmc.org.uk

  The event will take place in January 2011, details of the venue and delegate fee will follow soon.
  - **Contact:** You can register your interest by emailing Marie Vassallo (mvassallo@lmc.org.uk) at Londonwide LMCs.

- In March 2010 we launched the brand new online General Practice Nurse Training Programme for new and returning practice nurses.

  The training programme consists of a number of units delivered through a dedicated website with dedicated tutorial support, as well as two face-to-face taught days.

  The programme originally started life as the brainchild of three practice nurses: Suzie Clements, Sue Crossman and Sue Cross. As practice nurses themselves, they have experienced the gaps in the training available to nurses and have used this understanding as the basis of the development of this programme, on behalf of Londonwide LMCs.

  The training programme consists of eight practical modules covering:

  - Finding your feet in general practice
  - General treatment room skills
  - Emergency situations
  - Immunisation and vaccination
  - Long-term conditions
  - Sexual health
  - Mental health
  - Career development

  In addition, all users of the programme will attend two taught days that are inclusive in the price of £450. Please note that block booking discounts can be negotiated.

  For further information on the programme please contact info@generalpracticenurse.org.uk.

**How you can help us keep events costs down** – Londonwide LMCs and LEAD operate a strictly ethical sponsorship policy which, especially in the current climate, has an impact on our charges. Nevertheless, as a not-for-profit organisation we do our best to keep the costs of events down to enable as many members of your practice team to attend as possible. Venue and speaker costs are our biggest outlays. We currently locate our events in central London near to public transport links to make them accessible to...
practices across London. As you can imagine, central London venues are extremely expensive to use and we would be interested in hearing from practices that have meeting rooms that we could use to host smaller events.

We are looking for meeting rooms near to public transport with audio visual facilities if possible that can host a minimum of 25 delegates.

Please contact the LMC office on mvassallo@lmc.org.uk if you are able to help.

We are always looking for further input from you, our audience, so please contact us with your ideas for future events at: lwilliams@lmc.org.uk. We would also be interested in hearing feedback about speakers that you may have heard at non-LEAD events that you think could make a useful contribution to future LEAD events.

Please remember to check our website regularly. We would also like to encourage you to support your practice team members to participate.

3 Londonwide buying group latest news!

We are pleased to announce that the number of approved suppliers joining the Federation of Buying Groups, of which the Londonwide Buying Group is a member, continues to grow.

Shred-it is a confidential information shredding and recycling service. Shred-it specialises in providing a highly secure on-site document destruction service that allows businesses to comply with legislation as well as ensuring that their confidential business information is kept secure at all times.

In addition, one of our current approved suppliers, MIAB (The Medical Insurance Advisory Bureau) has released information on its new insurance products specifically for GPs. This includes products that cover revalidation, practice and personal professional fees, Health Service contract disputes and partnership disputes.

Also, Untied Utilities, another of our approved suppliers, offer a free service to help you to save money on your utility bills.

Please note that MidMeds is the sole approved supplier of medical supplies, consumables and equipment providing exceptional value for money for practices. Williams Medical Supplies Ltd is the accredited supplier of health and safety management systems.

Don’t forget that you will need your secure username and password in order to take advantage of these offers. If you do not know your unique username and password, or have any other queries relating to the Buying Group, please email office@nottslmc.co.uk or telephone 0115 9555 440.

You can also visit our website for more information and the latest rates for Buying Group members.

4 It’s election year – make your vote count!

We are pleased to announce that we have received a significant number of nominations for the LMC elections this year. This means that we need an election in Newham.

Londonwide LMCs is the brand name of Londonwide Local Medical Committees Limited. Registered and office address: Tavistock House North, Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9HX. T. 020 7387 2034/7418 F. 020 7383 7442 W. www.lmc.org.uk. Registered in England No. 6391298. Londonwide Local Medical Committees Limited is registered as a Company Limited by Guarantee.
Ballot papers were sent out on Friday 25 June 2010 so please ensure that you vote on line by going to www.votebyinternet.com/LMC2010 and following the on line instructions. You will need the two security codes provided on your ballot paper to vote on line, or complete your ballot paper and return it to the Electoral Reform Services (ERS) by 5.00pm on Friday 16 July 2010. A pre-paid envelope is enclosed with the ballot papers.

If you have any queries relating to the ballot please contact Nicola Loney on lmc-elections@lmc.org.uk. If you do not receive your ballot paper, please contact the Electoral Reform Services on 020 8889 9203.

This is an important time for all London GPs to be fully represented locally, particularly in the light of the establishment of polysystems, GP-led Health Centres and the continued threat to many PCT budgets which could put the health care for Londoners at very great risk. We therefore need you to cast your vote to ensure that your LMC is as representative as possible.

5 Community nursing
The LMC continues to raise its concern regarding the lack of consistency and fragmentation of community nursing services. This remains as a live item on LMC agendas so the PCT can address it as a commissioning issue.

6 GP classification model
In light of the GP Classification Model, practice visits should have been made and completed by the end of June 2010 to ensure practices are meeting statutory requirements.

7 Safeguarding children local enhanced service (LES)
We are aware that GPs in Newham who attend Safeguarding Children meetings were not being compensated for attendance. As a result, the PCT has agreed to clarify payment arrangements with Newham Council. In addition, the PCT will consider a proposed Case Finding LES as a one-off retrospective payment.

8 Your LMC in action – responses to recent consultations
- Teenage pregnancy strategy: beyond 2010

The joint Department for Children, Schools and Families and the Department of Health consultation was launched in February of this year and closed on 20 May 2010.

You can see our full response on our website.

Thank you to all of you who responded.
9 Sessional GPs tell us how it is — the results are in!

As part of our ongoing commitment to supporting all constituents, we have just run a survey specifically targeted at London’s 3,600 sessional GPs. Londonwide LMCs increased focus on sessional GP issues has been well received by constituents, but don’t take our word for it, see what salaried GP Dr Nasreen Jaffer has to say on the topic: ‘I welcome Londonwide LMCs taking an active interest in ensuring that the voice of the sessional GP is heard and supporting sessional GPs during these difficult times.’

The survey is part of a larger strategy to improve working relationships between sessional and partner GPs. Sessional GPs have their own specific concerns, most significantly the lack of partnership opportunities and the poor working relationships/environments. We are all committed to driving these issues forward and no one more so than Dr Drage, joint chief executive of Londonwide LMCs and a sessional GP herself. Dr Drage said: ‘Sessional GPs make up 50% of the GP workforce in London and they play a vital role in securing the future of general practice. As a profession we must not allow ourselves to be alienated from our colleagues by permitting the abuse of sessional GPs, this only serves to weaken general practice as a whole. The results of this survey reiterated existing issues and raised some new ones, which have given us plenty of food for thought and, more importantly, plenty to act upon.’

When asked about the survey, Dr Jenny Law, PMS GP partner, Lambeth, and an advisor on the Londonwide LMCs Diversity Working Group, said: ‘The LMC only has authority if it commands the full support and representation of all its GPs. The survey has identified a number of issues that LMCs must take note of and we would encourage all GP principals to encourage their sessional GPs by offering support for training, appraisals, career aspirations and good terms and conditions.’

Here are some of the key findings from the survey:

- 40% of GPs who responded knew of a sessional GP group in their area
- A whopping 95% of sessional GPs who responded receive an annual appraisal
- Unfortunately, 52% of those receiving appraisals are completing them in their own time
- Just over half of sessional GPs feel they are receiving adequate access to training
- 85% of respondents have attended a training session in the last 6 months, however 58% of these were self-funded
- Just 59% of sessional GPs completing the survey had an employment contract, of which just 44% felt it was in line with the BMA model contract.

The results will be used as a benchmark for our continued diversity work and the survey will be repeated regularly to see whether circumstances have changed, for the better or worse. Moving forward Londonwide LMCs will be providing guidance and training to address a number of the highlighted problems and we will continue to encourage practices to offer partnerships wherever possible and put in place strong succession planning.

The Londonwide LMCs Diversity Working Group thanks the 245 survey respondents and congratulates Dr Angela Romestan who won £25 worth of Amazon vouchers in the free prize draw. If you have any queries regarding diversity issues contact Helen Musson at hmusson@lmc.org.uk. Or you may find your questions answered on our frequently asked questions document.
Please remember to always keep us updated with your email addresses when they change by emailing info@lmc.org.uk – we need these to stay in touch and keep you full updated with hot issues.

10 Summary care record (SCR) update from the LMCs’ conference
At the annual LMCs’ conference on 10 and 11 June 2010, Health Minister Simon Burns announced a review of SCR processes as part of a wider review on information and technology. In addition, we understand an independent report into SCR processes is expected very shortly – watch this space!

The following motion was subsequently approved at the conference:

‘That conference deplores the accelerated roll-out of the SCR before evidence from the pilot sites have been evaluated and

1. Believes that patients who wish their SCR to be uploaded centrally should be asked to give explicit consent to this
2. Demands that general practitioners are appropriately funded to undertake the work generated in their practices by the SCR programme
3. Considers that the BMA should formally and publicly abandon its acceptance of an ‘opt-out’ system
4. Asks the BMA to explore the withdrawal of all co-operation with a system based on implied consent.’

Subject to any further government or GPC (General Practitioners Committee) announcements, we encourage practices to ensure that patients are appropriately informed of their options as outlined in previous communications and on the SCR page of our website.

Meanwhile, we shall continue to liaise with Connecting for Health who are responsible for the programme.

11 GP 48 hour access target axed in revised operating framework
The Government has scrapped the target of guaranteed access to a GP within 48 hours of booking an appointment as part of its policy of replacing targets with outcome based measures. The 18 weeks referral to treatment target and the patient experience of access indicator have also gone. Details of these changes are included in the revised Operating Framework for the NHS in England 2010/11.

The document states that performance data will continue to be collected and published. Anticipating concerns about access, the revised operating framework states that "GP's and commissioners will want to ensure that any flexibility to improve access reflects local clinical priorities".

12 Physical health care of patients with mental health problems
The Mental Health Trust (MHT) for your area may have started, or be about to start, an exercise in relation to CQUIN (Commissioning for Quality and Innovation).
Mental Health Trusts are saying they are required to obtain ‘encounter records’ or an ‘intermediate summary’ of all patients on a ‘Care Programme Approach’ from GPs. This is apparently so that the increased CVD and other LTC risks for these patients may be addressed.

The implications of this in terms of patient confidentiality, consent, workload for practices and risks to practices have not been addressed or agreed. We therefore recommend that unless there is an immediate patient safety issue, you should respond to any requests from MHTs in this regard by saying that this initiative remains a matter for discussion at a London wide level, and has not yet been agreed.

Please contact Leah Benson at the LMC office on 020 7387 2034 ext 251 or lbenson@lmc.org.uk if you have any concerns.

13 Vetting and barring scheme (VBS): July registration halted
The Government has announced that it will not introduce further elements to the vetting and barring scheme (VBS) without further review.

Voluntary registration with the Scheme was due to start on 26 July 2010 and was being limited to new employees and job-movers working or volunteering with children or vulnerable adults.

The process for remodelling the VBS is currently being finalised. Further details will be announced shortly.

During this process it will be business as usual for the CRB service. Although the VBS has been stopped, changes introduced in October 2009 are still in place. Organisations that are engaging individuals to work in regulated activity with children or vulnerable adults should continue to use their existing safeguarding practices. This includes the use of enhanced CRB disclosures where these are required by law or regarded as appropriate by employers.

Please note that even though the VBS has been halted for now, the CRB will still launch its new application form on 26 July 2010 as originally planned.

Further information, including a questions and answers on the process, are available on our website.

14 Care Quality Commission (CQC) registration
CQC registration will apply for NHS GPs from April 2012. However, we are aware that some PCTs have been informing practices that, because of CQC, they must fully comply now with the Health and Social Care Act 2008: Code of Practice for the NHS on the prevention and control of healthcare associated infections.

Please note that although there is an ongoing consultation on how the Code of Practice will relate to primary care but at the moment, it is currently guidance only.

15 The annual conference of representatives of LMCs
The annual conference of representatives of LMCs took place on 10 and 11 June 2010.
The General Practitioners Committee (GPC) has produced a report of proceedings which covers resolutions and election results as well as a number of motions that were raised by London GPs.

The conference was a well attended and lively affair with representatives in attendance from all of our LMCs in London. A number of timely and important motions were passed ranging from pandemic flu to essential, additional and enhanced services.

A warm point to note from this year’s event is that our joint chief executive, Dr Tony Stanton, received a standing ovation before speaking at the last LMC conference before his retirement later this year.

16 Update from the BMA conference, 28 June to 1 July 2010
The following motion was passed by the BMA last week:

That this Meeting proposes that hospitals should either directly supply or use FP10 prescriptions to patients to obtain an initial supply of medication, rather than requiring patients to obtain a prescription from their GP practice, which:

(i) inconveniences patients to attend their GP surgery and/or make an appointment solely for the administrative purpose of receiving a prescription for a drug initiated by a hospital doctor;
(ii) puts GPs in an invidious position by having to take clinical and legal responsibility to issue a prescription on the basis of a clinical assessment made by another doctor;
(iii) adds delay to patients commencing their medication.

We intend to issue guidance to GPs, commissioners and providers shortly.

17 Your chance to talk with your GPC representatives and negotiators
There will be a meeting on Thursday 7 October 2010 for GPs to attend to hear the latest news on the annual contract negotiations and to seek advice from GPC representatives and negotiators concerning London. NAME, GPC negotiator, will start the event with a presentation followed by a questions and answers session. The meeting will take place from 2.00pm in BMA House, Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9JP.

If you would like to attend please contact Jonathan Ashby at the LMC on 020 7387 2034 ext 228 or jashby@lmc.org.uk.

The closing date for registration is Friday 2 October 2010.

18 Thinking of retiring? Think again – Doctors of the World UK need your help!
Doctors of the World UK (DOW UK), previously known as Médecins du Monde UK, is a medical humanitarian organisation providing healthcare to marginalised populations around the world. DOW UK operates projects both here in the UK, and in over 70 countries worldwide.
Project: London is an advocacy project part of DOW UK that provides information, advice and practical assistance to vulnerable people to help them access the NHS and other services, as well as interim basic healthcare.

DOW UK’s work would not be possible without the dedicated support of medical professionals and they are looking for GP colleagues who are about to retire and would like to volunteer to help with Project London.

Responsibilities for GPs Involved in the project include providing medical checks for service users in the clinic setting, providing information on appropriate services the service user should access, completing medical forms for the clinic to abide by Healthcare Commission regulations and prescribing appropriate medication for service users, if required.

If you are interested please send your CV and a brief covering letter to recruitment@doctorsoftheworld.org.uk.

19 And finally.....
Please click on the links below for information on courses of interest for GPs and their practice teams:

- The Introductory Certificate in Sexual Health (ICSH), 13 July 2010 and 27 September 2010
- Enhancing your appraisal skills, 29 July 2010
- Supervision skills for clinical teachers, 2 September, 16 September and 30 September 2010
- Developing your clinical teaching, 7 September and 14 September 2010
- Supervision skills for clinical teachers, 15 September 2010
- Challenging conversations in end of life: communication for professionals including advance care planning, 16-17 September 2010

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