

Worcestershire

Local Medical Committee Ltd

NEWSLETTER

22nd November 2021

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NEW CHAIR OF GPC ENGLAND

Dr Farah Jameel has stated that she is delighted and honoured to have been elected to represent GPs as the new GPC England chair at a time of enormous challenge to the profession and she has thanked the former Chair, Dr Richard Vautrey for his dedication and commitment to the committee and all that he has achieved over the years for the profession. She also thanked the rest of the Executive Team and acknowledged their tireless efforts on behalf of the profession.

Dr Jameel is proud to represent grass-root colleagues, and in particular, to make history as the first woman to chair GPC England.

Reassuringly, Dr Jameel wants a fresh start for general practice and she intends to use the next three years to work closely with general practice leaders, grassroots GPs, Local Medical Committees (LMCs) alongside other stakeholders. She intends to hear a range of diverse views and be innovative in navigating the stormy waters ahead. Her intention is to seek to design and deliver a stable and sustainable general practice, fit to serve generations of patients to come.

She acknowledged some of the biggest issues the profession is currently facing - workload pressures, workforce shortages and funding depletion and she recognises that the experiences for patients must improve and that GPs need to be supported to provide high quality, safe and equitable care. She makes a promise to bring hope back into the profession.

Read the [press statement](#), and [General Practice \(@BMA GP\) / Twitter](#).

GP EARNINGS DECLARATION

Richard Vautrey and Chaand Nagpaul (Chair of Council), have continued to raise with the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) our serious concerns about earnings declarations for GPs. They had further discussions with them on Wednesday and they have now confirmed that they will delay both the submission and publication of earnings declarations until at least next Spring.

With GPs facing some of the most intense pressures many have ever experienced, we have been clear that this policy was likely to be counter-productive. Crucially, these changes could have caused disruption over the winter period – distracting from the immediate priorities facing practices and their patients.

We are pleased that the Secretary of State is delaying these plans, providing some breathing space for hard-working GPs. GPC will continue to lobby on this matter. Read the [guidance on GP earnings](#).

MEETING WITH SAJID JAVID MP

Last Friday our Chairman and Secretary met with the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care Sajid Javid MP. This was a highly constructive meeting and it was clear that he is keen to hear the views of local GPs and willing to engage with the LMC. We took the opportunity to share our local appointment data and he acknowledged the significant level of demand facing practices and the efforts going in to meet that demand. We covered a wide range of issues including the need for an honest conversation with the public around the pressures facing general practice this Winter, the need to manage patient expectations and the use of a variety of consultation models including face to face and remote consultations over the coming months in order to provide care for all those who seek it.

We discussed the ways that we could increase capacity in general practice by reducing bureaucracy and pushing back on work from other organisations and

we talked about the need to make general practice a rewarding career again in order to recruit and retain the workforce in the future and to ensure that patients receive the best care that we can provide. We have agreed to continue with these discussions over the coming months.

SUPPORTING GENERAL PRACTICE AGAINST ABUSE

The BMA continues to campaign against abuse of GPs and their staff with a number of resources available on [Support Your Surgery campaign](#) page, in order to get the changes that are so urgently needed to support general practice teams.

Please continue to show your support by signing the [Support Your Surgery petition](#) to put pressure on the Government to support general practice and use the resources to explain to patients why practices need to work in the way they are doing in order to protect patients from a rising incidence of COVID-19 and to make the best use of the available but limited workforce.

You can also get involved in the [#SupportYourSurgery social media discussion](#) by sharing your support across social media.

Please do all you can to help us defend and support general practice at this critical time.

Please share this [template letter](#) amongst your local patient groups.

COVID-19 VACCINATIONS

Booster vaccination for over 40s

The [Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation \(JCVI\)](#) has advised this week that, all adults aged 40 to 49 years (cohort 10) should also be offered an mRNA COVID-19 Vaccine booster, 6 months after their second dose, irrespective of the vaccines given for the first and second doses.

Second doses for 16 and 17-year olds

The [JCVI has also advised](#) that all 16 to 17 year olds who are not in an at-risk group should be offered a second dose of the Pfizer vaccine. The second vaccine dose should be given 12 weeks or more following the first vaccine dose.

Note that for both of these groups, it is on an opt-in basis, and provision to these groups won't be required if PCN groups want to just continue with existing provision.

Read the [guidance from NHSE/I on COVID-19 vaccination deployment for both groups](#).

COVID-19 vaccination for the housebound

NHSE/I has increased the supplementary fee detailed in the [phase 3 general practice enhanced service specification](#) to £20 per visit (increased from the current £10 supplementary fee) to a housebound patient for each vaccination dose given to a housebound patient, by PCN-led and CP-led LVS sites. This supplement is on top of the £12.58 Item of Service fee. This increased supplement will apply for COVID-19 vaccinations (booster and third primary dose only) administered to housebound people from 16 September 2021 until 5 December 2021.

VACCINATION DATA RESOLUTION SERVICE (VDRS)

The Vaccination Data Resolution Service (VDRS) has been established to resolve missing or incorrect vaccination records for people who are registered with a GP practice in England and who were vaccinated in England, Scotland or Wales. The primary aim of the VDRS is to ensure progression of the COVID-19 vaccination programme and ensure people's records are correct and allow recommended doses of the vaccination to be booked and received, including booster doses.

As well as the public being able to access the service via 119, a system has been established whereby sites can access the VDRS to support vaccination record entry and queries. This service should also be used by sites if a person presents for vaccination and has missing vaccination records relating to vaccine administered at sites elsewhere in England and requires sites to complete a form for the VDRS team to process.

For full information on how to access this service, please visit the VDRS page within the [COVID vaccinations tech and data workspace](#) on FutureNHS. Register [here for a FuturesNHS account](#).

HEALTH SELECT COMMITTEE INQUIRY INTO THE FUTURE OF GENERAL PRACTICE

This week the Parliamentary Health and Social Care Committee (HSCC), chaired by former Health Secretary, Jeremy Hunt MP, has launched a timely [inquiry into the future of general practice](#). The inquiry presents a key opportunity for the BMA to push their GP campaign asks, as well as to raise wider concerns and recommendations. The BMA will submit a formal response

as will the LMC, but members of the public can also [submit their comments](#) directly to the inquiry by 14 December.

MENTOR SUPPORT

Please find a flyer highlighting how you can access peer support during this time [here](#). More information about [wellbeing](#) support can be found on the LMC website.

MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING SUPPORT

Wellbeing

We are fortunate to have excellent mental health support in place for general practice locally across both our counties. Do please access support if you need it and remember that it is very hard to look after others if you are not looking after yourself! The latest support available can be found on our [website](#).

There is help and assistance available within the Herefordshire and Worcestershire Healthy Minds service. They are able to provide bespoke talking therapies for all colleagues irrespective of your role in your organisations to assist with anxiety, low mood, stress and other common mental health problems. Referral is easy and can be completed via visiting <https://www.healthyminds.whct.nhs.uk/>. This is a NHS service and as such is free at the point of contact and confidential.

The Service Manager, Phill Morgan Henshaw is happy to answer any questions regarding referral and treatment and can be contacted on 01432 842200 or via phill.morganhenshaw@nhs.net.

BMA Mental Health and Wellbeing

The BMA continues to offer [wellbeing services](#) and confidential 24/7 counselling and peer support for all doctors and medical students, as well as their partners and dependents, on 0330 123 1245. Access the [BMA's COVID-19 wellbeing pages here](#).

The BMA has welcomed the NHSE/I [announcement](#) of further funding for the expanded and rapid access provision of mental health services for NHS staff in England over the winter. This is urgently required and something the BMA has been calling for to support the major challenges NHS staff are facing. At the ARM, a motion was passed expressing concern at the potential long-term impact of the pandemic and called for resources to support the profession. As we head into a second wave of the virus it is vital that staff are protected. [Find out more here](#).

LMC WEBSITE

The following guidance has been added to the LMC website www.worcslmc.co.uk this week:

No New Items

COVID 19 RESOURCES

[BMJ – news and resources](#)

[RCGP COVID-19 information](#)

[NHSE/I primary care bulletins](#)

[NICE resources](#)

WORCESTERSHIRE AND HEREFORDSHIRE LMC LTD

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All topical issues relating to local general practice are discussed at the monthly LMC meetings and those minutes can be read on the LMC [Website](#). Should you require further information on any issues raised at the LMC meetings please do not hesitate to contact the LMC representative for your area or practice.

MEMBERS OF THE WORCESTERSHIRE COMMITTEE

- CHAIRMAN:** Dr David Herold
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Representatives:

- | | | | |
|---------------------|--|-------------------|--|
| BROMSGROVE: | Dr D Pryke
Dr K Hollier | REDDITCH: | Dr I Haines
Dr M Shah |
| WYRE FOREST: | Dr M Davis
Dr S Morton
Dr J Rayner | WYCHAVON: | Dr D Herold
Dr J Rankin
Dr K Gines |
| MALVERN: | Dr P Bunyan
Dr R Khehar | WORCESTER: | Dr F Martin
Dr C Whyte
Dr R Benney |

Co-opted Representatives:

Out of Hours: Dr E Penny
Dispensing: Dr J Rankin
Registrars Rep: Dr J Chun (North)
Dr E Ukorebi (South)

First5 Rep: Dr L Jones

IT Rep: Dr R Williams

Non Principals: Dr S Manton

Clinical Directors: Dr R Williams

EDI: Dr R Benney

Practice Manager Representatives:

Helen Garfield, Representative WF PM
Michelle Hallahan, Representative R&B PM
Meryl Foster, Representative SW PM

Worcestershire GPC Representative: Dr S Matthews

The next LMC meetings will be:

Worcestershire – 9th December 2021

