

**Worcestershire
LMC
Limited**

Working in Partnership to Support General Practice

**Minutes of the Worcestershire LMC Meeting
Held on
Thursday 15th September 2022
7pm – Virtual Meeting held on ‘Teams’.**

Present: David Herold (Chair), Gillian Farmer (Secretary), Leah Jones, Meeraj Shah, Fiona Martin, James Rayner, Rebekah Twomey, Ravi Khehar, Roy Williams, Emma Penny, Paul Bunyan, Kevin Hollier, Seb Morton, Katy Gines, Stephanie Manton, Jonathan Swallow, Felix Obuehi Meryl Foster, Tracey Summers.

Guests: Sarah Matthews (GPC)

The Chair took a few moments prior to the commencement of the meeting to reflect upon the sad news of the death of our Queen, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

- 1. Apologies:** Ian Haines, James Rankin, Helen Garfield.
- 2. Approve minutes and review actions:** The minutes were reviewed by the Chair; it was agreed that this was a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Actions reviewed by the Secretary

- Acute Trust Discharges – Secretary stated that she would discuss this matter along with others later in the meeting.
- LMC Conference Motions and Statements - Secretary thanked those who had responded with comments. Reference was made to the appendix in the agenda detailing the motions and statements that have now been submitted.
- Access to Community Hospital beds - Secretary confirmed that feedback from the previous meeting had been given to Dr Brodie. Our comments had been received positively and these would be discussed in matters arising.
- Dr Carl Ellson – Chair confirmed that the statement had gone out in a Newsletter. Secretary confirmed that the statement from the family should now have been sent out to all Practice Managers by Primary Care.
The memorial service will be in November but the exact date is still to be confirmed.

3. Matters Arising

3.1 England Conference of LMC's (Motions and Statements)

- Secretary discussed the motions and statements that have been submitted
- The committee members confirmed that they were happy with the submissions

3.2 Interface Requirements (Letters and Templates)

- Secretary asked the members if they had gone through the appendices attached to this point. Seeking feedback from the committee on the use of the letter and the Patient Referral Rejection form going forward.
- Secretary stated that despite the Work Transfer Survey being discussed previously nothing had improved and in fact the situation was worse. Resulting in more pressure on General Practice workload
- The interface issues had been discussed previously with Mari Gay and Christine Blanchard at length.
- A discussion took place regarding the types of workload transfers from secondary care that the GP's were receiving, the impact on workload and the access to appointments for patients.
- Secretary stated that it was important for the LMC to do something to push back on this and support General Practice. Many of the referrals were asking GPs to complete work that was outside of the current contract and formed part of the NHS Standard Contract instead.
- MS – stated that due to the number of locums working and the turnover of staff at the Trust he felt that this type of form would not be read or communicated to them.
- PB – suggested that the communication needed to be more specific about the areas that GPs were saying no to. Secretary explained that key action points were outlined in the letter.
- There was significant input from members of the committee in a detailed discussion around specific referrals they had received.
- SMorton – It is difficult for patients to understand the system and therefore it is often easier to do something than explain why you cannot provide them with the service.
- JS and FO – felt that if Registrars were informed about the letter they could be encouraged to follow the new system.
- MF – stated that if the GPs were flagging additional work on their appointment system or using coding, then data could be analysed for future discussion with the ICB.
- RW – Local analysts have already been appointed to report results across the whole county. The issue had been discussed at the last Acute Trust Meeting and the consultants in attendance accepted there was an issue. He felt that we did need to make a stand but General Practice needed to stand together
- The conclusion of the discussion was that the majority were in favour of the introduction of the letter and form with a review.
- A further discussion took place around what was included in the core GMS. The Secretary updated the committee around GPCE's work to understand what enhanced services were being commissioned across England as none of these were part of the core GMS and should be funded.

Action: Secretary to arrange to send letters and implement the use of the new form. Communication to practices via the next Newsletter.

TS to arrange a regular meeting for the Secretary with Christine Blanchard.

Secretary to include action point in the letter around not asking GP's to write letters requesting that referrals be expedited for patients.

3.3 Community Mental Health Transformation Programme

- Secretary discussed Appendix 6- The letter sent on the behalf of the LMC and the CD Forum to Simon Trickett, Sarah Dugan and Crishni Waring.
- Appendix 7 – Response to the letter. The content of the letter was disappointing and did not address any of the concerns.
- Secretary attended a further meeting with the CD's. It was apparent from the discussion that there are disparities in the service across areas of the county. It was agreed at the meeting that there was an apparent lack of understanding of the issues affecting the service.
- Sarah Dugan has been invited to the CD forum on the 6th October 2022
- There is a risk register being implemented.

Action: Secretary to report back after the CD Forum meeting with Sarah Dugan

3.4 Referral to Community Teams Pathway Update

- Dr Tristan Brodie had asked for the opinion of the committee on the proposed pathway.
- As a result of the discussion at the last LMC meeting in July. Secretary wrote back detailing the committee's concerns. (Letter read out).
- After further discussion concerning the flowchart Dr Brodie took our concerns on board and as a result of his input the flowchart has now been amended. (Appendix 8)
- Secretary stated that it was a very positive response to the LMC's feedback.

3.5 Future of Worcestershire General Practice Event

- Secretary discussed the letter sent out to all practices in Worcestershire.
- The LMC are working together with the CD Forum on this
- Event on the 1st December is designed to involve and include practices regarding the vision for the future of general practice in Worcestershire.

4.0 GPC Update by Sarah Matthews

- There has not been a GPC meeting since the July meeting.
- The election process has been completed and the 4th member of the Executive team has been appointed. David Rigley has been elected, he is very experienced and has been on BMA Council.
- There is work going forward on the considerations around industrial and collective action. This is a subgroup of 4 headed up by David Rigley.
- The transition towards working in smaller subgroups has given members the opportunity to join something they are interested in and can help drive things forward.
- SM has joined the group for Education and Training in England.
- The Chair asked if there was any information on the withdrawal of funding from Birmingham University. SM stated that Samira Anane who is in charge of Education for BMA England is looking into this. SM will report back if she hears anything further.
- Secretary is following this up with Samira and will report back on how this will affect funding locally.
- Secretary attended the GPC drop-in session and she outlined the discussions that were had.
- Accelerated access to patient records was discussed. SM confirmed that there was still a lot of work to be completed prior to the deadline.
RW stated that NHSE had looked at the level of risk and returned an assessment of level 3 risk. GPC need to be giving more advice on this issue.
SM stated that the GPC have an IT group that are working with the NHSE on this matter

5.1 Health & Care Trust

- Discussed in Matters Arising – No further Update.

5.2 Integrated Care System

No update.

5.3 Worcestershire Acute Hospitals Trust

- New SOP Advice & Guidance - Secretary updated the room that there is now a SOP for Advice and Guidance (Appendix 10 & 11) allowing other primary care staff to request A&G.
- Teledermatology – Secretary had communication from Jade Brookes at the ICB who stated that this was entirely voluntary and non-contractual. They are receiving regular updates from the Primary Care / Secondary Care and will consult further before taking a business as usual approach.
Secretary -Therefore we practices continue to do this it could be accepted as normal in the future without additional funding.
Secretary – Discussed the approach that Herefordshire had taken.
- B12 – Secretary confirmed that the threshold has now been increased. There had been agreement to do the bottom 5%. RW -stated that the Haematology still had to sign off on this. DH – discussed Gloucestershire pathway on B12.

5.4 NHS England

- Secretary updated on NHSE recent request to meet quarterly. They have introduced a template for questions being put forward. All questions must have been discussed with ICB before escalating together with their response. In addition any other parties consulted BMA, GPC etc. must be included. Only upon receipt of this information will they respond. This is a negative development.

5.5 Public Health

No update

5.6 Education

- Secretary reported that Three Counties Medical School did not get the approval from GMC and will be deferred.

5.7 People's Board

- SMorton – Updated the room on the recent meeting of the board (Report included with the agenda) Positive with recruitment days planned.
Secretary mentioned that the GP Recruitment event at the end of the month had received a poor response and there was a question whether this would go ahead.
MS – stated the event has not been advertised enough
RW – Active GP Recruitment facebook group would be a good place to advertise.

5.8 EDI

No Update

5.9 Estates

No Update

5.10 Dispensing

- Chair announced the retirement of James Rankin and his resignation from the LMC Committee. This creates a vacancy for a dispensing rep. PB to give consideration to taking on the role.

5.11 OOH/NHS 111

- EP – update on 111. WMAS has given notice on providing the service and this has now moved to Derbyshire Health United. They have improved the rota with more people on triage. Payment structure also under review.

5.12 Non Principals

- Steph – fed back on the meeting in June with the Champions of the flexible pools team. Encouraging locums and GP's to join the flexible pools was a concern. Online forums had been arranged through the training hub but these were poorly attended.
MS - stated he had locums on the flexible pool that were registering on other sites because they were not getting work
MF – suggested that the Champions engage more with the practices and advertise more.

5.13 Registrars

- Chair – welcomed JS and FO the new registrar representatives in the room. He explained the reason for the registrar's agenda item and reports.

5.14 PM Groups

MF Updated the room.

- PCSE payments are still an issue and further discussion is taking place with Chris Plant of the ICB.
- PM Forum raised discrepancies across the PCNs. In Worcester City area practice income is being threatened by Pharmacies taking on flu vaccines and the PCN cap on Covid vaccines. Concern is that decisions are being made without consultation but when practices wish to raise questions there is no clear pathway to address issues.

5.15 ADMIN

TS asked the committee members to provide the following information

- Declaration of interest forms
- Personal contact details. Current address, telephone number and email address.

5.16 GPPF

- Secretary stated that a letter had been sent off regarding the cost of living expenses to the ICS.
- GPPF will probably move to being the strategic level provider meetings as per the Fuller report.

5.18 PCN

- RW – PCNs have employed their own analyst team working with Hereford. Connor Price will head the team covering Herefordshire and Worcestershire. Data will be owned by Primary Care.

6. Any Other Business.

- Chair confirmed that the next meeting would be on the 13th of October and F2F.

Action: TS to send out a list of future meeting dates and whether they are virtual or F2F

Meeting ended at 21:12