

**Worcestershire
LMC
Limited**

Working in Partnership to Support General Practice

Minutes of the Worcestershire LMC Meeting

**Held on
Thursday 8th December 2022
7.00pm Virtual MS Teams Meeting**

Present: David Herold (Chair), Gillian Farmer (Secretary), Leah Jones, Meeraj Shah, Fiona Martin, Paul Bunyan, Seb Morton, Katy Gines, Stephanie Manton, Jonathan Swallow, Meryl Foster, Helen Garfield, Rebekah Twomey, Ian Haines, David Pryke, Kevin Hollier, Tracey Summers, Sarah Matthews.

Guests: Conor Price – PCN Analytics Team

- 1. Apologies:** Roy Williams, Emma Penny, James Rayner, Ravi Khehar, Matt Davis.
- 2. Approve minutes and review actions:** The minutes had been reviewed by the Secretary. However, the Chair and other parties had only just received the minutes due to an issue with the email. Chair asked everyone to review and let TJS know if there were any issues. Secretary suggested that the minutes would be sent out as a link with the Agenda in future and this was agreed.

Actions reviewed by the Secretary

- **Update on Mental Health Trust** – There have been no further discussions on this since the last update for the committee.
- **Contact with Dr Julian Brelet** - Unfortunately the Secretary had not been able to make any progress with this due to other commitments.

Action: Contact Dr Julian Brelet carried over to next meeting.

3. Matters Arising

3.1 PCN Analytics Team – Presentation by guest speaker Mr Conor Price, Taurus Healthcare.

The Chair introduced Conor Price to the committee.

- CP explained his background, starting out in General Practice within various roles prior to joining Taurus Healthcare Ltd.
- The team offers dedicated support to the PCN's.
- CP discussed a number of slides (copy of slides attached to the minutes) with the committee. Explaining the team, their experience and what they aim to achieve.
- Conor explained that this was a new concept and that he hoped that the funding will continue into the future once the team has proved its worth.
- Chair asked about how the team would be involved in EMIS training.
- MS asked how he would find out who his analyst is. CP explained that there is no particular analyst assigned to a specific PCN at the moment
- MS asked if some of the trainees could get involved in the future with the team. CP confirmed that this would be a good idea in the future
- Secretary asked who will fund this role in the future. CP stated that they do work with the ICB that could produce future funding. They hope that NHSE will see the benefit of funding these types of teams in the future
- SM asked if there is a work around to make text messaging free. CP said there is potential to look at this in the future
- MF asked if NHSE digital funding could be used to fund the team in the future. Secretary stated that the funding situation is very complex and the LMC are already looking into this
- Chair thanked CP for the presentation

3.2 Safe Working and GP Pressures

- Secretary discussed the webinar with Richard Van Mellerts and she asked what the thoughts of the committee are with regarding to introducing change.
- Chair stated that in practice the day to day workings seem a way off being able to instigate some of the changes suggested
- HG said it was a very useful meeting but she also felt that it would be some time before these changes could be worked through at her practice
- Secretary stated that it had been an important part of the webinar to make people aware of what they could do contractually. Knowing this will hopefully mean that practices will chose to work towards making these changes gradually to alleviate some of the pressures.
- LMC Whatsapp group are going to conduct a similar webinar soon
- MS stated that one of the practices in his PCN have introduced the 25 cap on appointments. They are waiting to see if this works
- Chair asked about the letter to local MP's. Secretary stated that this had gone out but there had been no response as yet. TS confirmed that all the letters had been received by the MP's offices.
- Secretary gave an update on the PCN meeting at Stanbrook Abbey. The meeting was held by the Clinical Directors and Hollie Hastings. She welcomed feedback on the meeting.
- Secretary discussed an overflow hub for the county and how this may be funded.
- Secretary advised the committee of current numbers of Strep A cases and the problems in supply of antibiotics.

- SMatthews – GPC are asking for QoF and IIF to be suspended given the recent pressures with Strep A.
- PB said that there is a significant issue with the drugs supply chain. He asked if the GPC were doing anything about these problems.
- Secretary stated that the GPC are aware of the issue but with all the strikes being planned at the moment their resources are having to concentrate on how these strikes will affect General practice.
- Chair said that this was being seen daily in dispensing practices and it was inevitable that this would result in an increase in the cost of antibiotics.

Action:- Secretary to update on response to MP's letters

3.3 UK LMC Conference

- Chair detailed the topics that had been discussed on day one. This included a GP contract debate and the moving towards a 9-5 working day.
- The enhanced access was repealed
- Strike plans for Junior doctors was supported by conference
- There were a number of other motions that were voted on the majority of which were carried by conference.
- Chair explained that Farah Jameel the Chair has currently been suspended. No explanation was given for this at conference
- A recording of Day 1 of conference is available on the BMA website.
- Chair explained the format of day 2 and some of the topics discussed in the breakout groups. The idea of these sessions was to influence the negotiating of the new contract. The feeling was that it was likely to be a tariff based contract.
- The motion put forward suggesting resigning from the contract was debated but not passed.
- S Matthews explained that even though Farah Jameel had been suspended the GPC still has a team of four because Claire Bannon had already been appointed into cover Farah's maternity leave and Kieran Sharrock had also stepped up. Conference felt quite stable with members constantly visible in front of the room. An explanation was given as to why some people did not get the opportunity to speak. Format of the vote explained.
- S Matthews and Chair expressed disappointment that the debate on 9 to 5 working had been cut short on the day and the outcome of the vote had been different to the view expressed at the UK conference in York.
- Secretary stated that the motion on this occasion had been worded differently to York.
- Secretary commended Chair on his presentation of the motion

3.4 GPDF Update

- Secretary explained what happened after our last LMC meeting when we agreed how we would vote. After the meeting everything changed as there was a call for the meeting to be adjourned. All LMC's were asked to sign a document digitally. After discussion the Chair, Secretary and PB decided not to sign the document without further information. 93% of LMC's had signed the document prior to the meeting. After further discussion it was agreed that we would vote in favor of an adjournment at the meeting.
- Secretary stated that she had attended the meeting on behalf of the LMC. The meeting went on for an hour and a half prior to it being adjourned.
- Secretary read out the requested next steps. There would be an interim board appointed to renegotiate the Deed of Grant prior to June 2023.

- S Matthews stated that her main concern is that the funding that was promised previously has now been suspended
- PB stated that there is an importance to get this resolved quickly given all the other issues that the GPDF are required to give support to LMC's on in the future.

4.0 GPC Update by Sarah Matthews

- S Matthews stated that a meeting took place on the 3rd November 2022. Some of the matters had already been discussed in previous areas within the minutes. There was a statement at the opening of the meeting from one of the executive Co chairs of the BMA about Farah Jameel's suspension, saying it was without prejudice. With no substantial updates given.
- Kieran Sharrock spoke for the chair and most of that discussion was around access to records. There were intensive negotiations taking place around that time with Mark Coley and David Wrigley leading.
- S Matthews asked the committee for their views on the proposal around primary care doctors. This involves SAS grade doctors coming from secondary care to work alongside GP's in primary care. It is not yet clear whether they would be coming in a specialist role to support us in primary care undifferentiated work alongside us probably with some supervision or a new career pathway,
- As mentioned in a previous meeting GPC had reformulated the policy groups and at the time it was open for people to apply for lead and deputy. SM applied for the lead of education and training for GPC in UK and her application was successful.
- David Wrigley spoke on the alternative Action Group. Exploring options as to what things would sit well within general practice. This was also a topic of discussion on the 2nd day of the conference.
- There was a presentation on the 23/24 contract. Then in the afternoon there were some round table discussion surrounding the scope of the new contract.
- Secretary responded to the question on SAS doctors asking who would be funding these positions? There are many questions still to be answered, who will employ them, who do they report to and what is the purpose of their roles?
- Chair questioned the benefits of having these doctors in primary care in particular the level of supervision required. He explained how much time is currently taken up with supervision.
- JS expressed his concerns. With locum doctors already earning more than the trainee doctors there has been a disincentive to train.
- S Morton stated that if there is funding involved in employing them it would be worth considering
- RT stated that if they were being brought in to conduct specialist clinics then this would free up GP time. However, some GP's may also see this as a negative because they enjoy doing clinics and would not like to loose these skills.
- MS as a workforce lead sees this as a good solution to provide GP's support. His concern would be where to put these people as estates is an issue.
- KG stated that this could been seen as helping GP's but in fact this could result in more pressure in secondary care which in turn would only come back to general practice.
- DP stated that the people suggesting these changes do not appreciation of what a GP actually does. This could result in staff coming into the practice that are a liability and DP did not see this as a solution
- S Matthews thanked the committee for their feedback. There would be a discussion at the GPC later in the month

5.1 Health & Care Trust

- Secretary stated that we maintain our contacts but at this time there are no significant updates.

5.2 Integrated Care System

- Secretary stated that there is still the need for a hub to be established. The LMC will continue to push for this to be funded.

5.3 Worcestershire Acute Hospitals Trust

- Secretary spoke to Will Taylor. He had reported that Cancer recovery figures were improving.
- Secretary gave an update on the strikes that are to take place and stated that we are still awaiting information from the trust on how these will be managed and what impact they may have on general practice.

5.4 NHS England

No update

5.5 Public Health

No update

5.6 Education

No update.

5.7 People's Board

- S Morton talked through his report. Chair commented on the graphs included in the report.

5.8 EDI

No Update

5.9 Estates

- Secretary confirmed that MD would be returning to these meetings in the New Year.

5.10 Dispensing

- PB stated that there has been some confusion over the recent dispensing reviews by NHSE. He stated that he would provide a statement to go out with the next Newsletter for practices.

Action: PB to provide newsletter statement

5.10 OOH/NHS 111

- Chair referred to EP's recent report.
- Secretary stated that demand for OOH has increased dramatically

5.12 Non Principals

- SM discussed the relaxed restriction on the GP's on the retention scheme doing extra sessions. There is an update on the BMA website giving full details.
- S Matthews confirmed this and stated that they must make the scheme leads aware

5.13 Registrars

No update

5.14 PM Groups

- MF there are still issues with payments coming through to practices
- HG Gpad data showed no home visits for the practice. Advised to complete visit data in full or the data will not be correctly picked up.
- Secretary stated the importance of entering all data to show how busy we are

5.15 ADMIN

- Chair confirmed we will be looking for a new Treasurer in the LMC as PB steps down.

5.16 GPPF

- Secretary stated that this is still evolving and the remit of the forum may change in the next couple of months.

5.18 PCN

- Secretary gave an update in the absence of RW.

6. Any Other Business.

- Chair and Secretary wished the committee a 'Merry Christmas'

Chair confirmed that the next meeting would be on the 12th January 2023. Face to face meeting at the Swan.

Meeting ended at 20:59