

Friday 22 July 2016

Issue 1

Content

2016 general practice photo challenge – England	4
BMA revised guidance on firearms – England, Scotland and Wales	3
GP trainee subcommittee elections	3
GPC meeting	1
Indemnity - England	2
LMC access to the BMA website	4
LMC observers at GPC meetings	4
LMCs – change of details	4
Multispecialty Community Provider (MCP) development - England	3
Primary care support services – England	2
Recruitment of GPC England Executive Team members 2016	1
Responding to the LMC conference	2
Sessional GPs e-newsletter	3

GPC meeting

The GPC held its meeting on Thursday 21 July 2016. Key items of discussion included responding to the LMC conference resolutions on the GP Forward View (GPFV), Multispecialty Community Provider (MCP) development and indemnity. Please see a summary of items below, along with additional updates for LMCs and practices.

Recruitment of GPC England Executive Team members 2016

As you are aware, the GPC approved the implementation, on a trial basis with a review after two years, of a system of appointment for three members of the GPC England Executive team (in addition to the chair of GPC England). A maximum of one non-GPC member (who could also be a non-doctor) could be included within that membership.

Responsibility for the appointment of these three members lies with the GPC England chair working with senior BMA staff and with external expert advice. Terms of office for the executive team are aligned with the GPC chair and are for a maximum of three years; there is no limit to the number of terms of office for executive team members.

These are senior roles in which post holders will be accountable for leading, developing and representing the views of GPC (England) on all policy matters affecting GPs working in England, and will work with the rest of the team taking forward negotiations on all aspects of GP contracts in England. The roles require an experienced professional, with extensive experience of influencing policy or negotiating contracts/terms and conditions, either for independent GP contractors or on behalf of employees or employers. Candidates should be confident communicators, able to demonstrate evidence of leading and motivating teams, as well as possessing personal resilience and significant influencing skills. A detailed role profile is attached.

A remuneration and support package will be available commensurate with these requirements.

Applications are now invited for three members of the GPC England Executive team. This notification is being sent to current members of GPC and circulated to LMCs.



In order to apply, candidates should submit their **CV and covering letter**, together with their answers to the following three questions (the answer to each question should not exceed 400 words):

1. What could you contribute to the future of the GPC Executive?
2. What is your vision for how the Executive team can better serve GPs?
3. Why do you think you have the experience and skills for the role?

Applications should be sent by email to Chris Finlan cfinlan@bma.org.uk and Gail Norcliffe gnorcliffe@bma.org.uk by the deadline of **12 August 2016**.

Responding to the LMC conference

GPC discussed next steps in taking forward the resolutions from the January LMC special conference and the May LMC conference, regarding the 'rescue package' for general practice, and the government's acceptance of GPC's urgent prescription proposals.

GPC has both taken legal advice and considered a risk assessment on the implications of undated resignations and industrial action, and also what actions can be legally taken by practices without breaching their contract.

GPC has also continued its dialogue with NHS England on accepting the proposals in GPC's urgent prescription. NHS England has considered in detail each of the proposals in the urgent prescription that are not in the GP Forward View (GPFV). Much of the urgent prescription is already contained in the GPFV. Other areas in the urgent prescription are in the form of bullet points, in which the detail has yet to be worked up. Therefore any acceptance of such areas by NHS England has to be considered within this context, in which there will need to be further dialogue.

Our conversations and correspondence with NHS England have been positive and NHS England has committed to discussing taking forward all elements of the urgent prescription not addressed by the GPFV, including where relevant as part of forthcoming 2017/18 GP contract negotiations, as well as through the new Primary and Secondary Care Interface Working Group and the LMC reference group. It is of note that NHS England has not put forward any obstacles, or ruled out any of the urgent prescription proposals.

The GPC meeting yesterday supported the GPC Executive continuing its dialogue with NHS England in the hope of fulfilling the aims of both resolution S20 as well as resolution S12 from the May LMC conference. GPC is nevertheless still minded to conduct a consultative survey in September, looking at the actions practices can take to limit workload to safe levels.

Meanwhile, it is vital that areas of the GPFV, including the practice resilience programme and changes to the NHS standard contract, are delivered for practices as quickly as possible to address core pressures. Discussions will continue, including through the LMC reference group, which has already yielded a very useful dialogue between the centre and localities.

GPC will provide a further update on this issue next month.

Primary care support services - England

GPC discussed the current issues related to NHS England's contract with Capita to provide primary care support services. GPC passed a motion of no confidence in Capita, following the months of concerns highlighted by practices in England about the failures in patient record transfer, delivery of supplies and payment problems since NHS England handed over responsibility to Capita, as well as the very real concerns highlighted in NHS England's plans to remove patients from practice lists. [The press release is available online](#). The GPC chair had previously written to NHS England highlighting the significant concerns of the committee and the wider GP population. Capita has dramatically failed the NHS in England, disrupted general practice, and more seriously is still putting patients at risk of harm in their disastrous handling of the Primary Care Support contract. GPC representatives will be meeting with NHS England in the near future to discuss the situation.

Indemnity - England

GPC discussed rising indemnity costs, which remain a significant concern for GPs in whatever contractual capacity they work. GPC has repeatedly raised concerns at a national level, and discussions have been held with NHS England and the Department of Health, with a view to taking forward the commitments made in NHS England's GP Forward View. We will update LMCs on progress soon.

Multispecialty Community Provider (MCP) development - England

GPC discussed the development and implementation of the voluntary MCP contract within the 6 pilot sites. GPC is represented on the national MCP advisory group and we are receiving feedback from some practices involved in these pilots. Further information for LMCs will be circulated soon.

BMA revised guidance on firearms – England, Scotland and Wales

In response to GPs concerns over the new firearms licensing process introduced in April this year, new policy was passed at the Local Medical Committee's Conference and the BMA's Annual Representatives Meeting seeking further action and changes. In addition to this the British Association for Shooting and Conservation (BASC) are now advising their members to refuse payment to GPs for responding to the initial letter from the Police.

In light of these events, we are in the process of revising our position and guidance and an update will be available on the BMA website early next week. Information will be sent round to LMCs at this point. The Home Office has also been kept informed and we will continue to engage with them on seeking improvements to the current process.

GP trainee subcommittee elections

A second round of nominations for seats on the GP trainees subcommittee is now open for the following regions.

- London North Central and East
- Northern Ireland
- Peninsula (SW Deanery)
- Scotland, North
- Yorkshire

Elections are also taking place for the following regions:

- Scotland South East and East
- Scotland West
- Severn
- Thames Valley
- Wales

If you would like to get involved in the work of the subcommittee and really make a difference to the lives of your fellow GP trainees, please consider standing for election. It doesn't matter if you are a BMA member or not – all that matters is that you are on, or are about to begin, a GP training programme.

Successful candidates will be elected to serve for two full sessions (2016-17 and 2017-18) unless the representative is set to qualify as a GP during the first session, in which case they will only serve for one session, or if a representative elected last year is standing down, in which case the seat will only be for the 2016-17 session.

- [Download a nomination form](#)
- [Read more details on the GP trainees election webpage](#)
- [Email the election team with any queries](#)
- [Download Becoming a GP trainee representative](#)

Sessional GPs e-newsletter

The July edition of the sessional GPs e-newsletter was published on 21 July and is [available online](#). There is a [message](#) from the new Chair, Zoe Norris, introducing herself and setting out what matters to her and the emphasis she places on effective two way communication. There is also a [message](#) from Vicky Weeks, the outgoing Chair, about the subcommittee's achievements and biggest challenges. Faisal Baig writes about salaried GPs [contracts](#) and Paula Wright sets out how locums can offer [hope](#) to general practice. The e-newsletter also covers new FAQs on [locum chambers](#).

LMC observers at GPC meetings

LMC observers are welcome to attend GPC UK and GPC England meetings. If your LMC would be interested in sending an observer, please contact Michelle Palmer (mpalmer@bma.org.uk). A maximum of three LMC observers may attend any one meeting.

GPC UK and GPC England will meet on the following dates in 2016/17. GPC meetings will commence at 10:00am and will usually finish at 5:00pm (never later than 6:00pm). Meetings are held at BMA House, Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9JP.

Thursday 15 September 2016	GPC UK
Thursday 17 November 2016	GPC England
Thursday 19 January 2017	GPC England
Thursday 16 March 2017	GPC UK
Thursday 15 June 2017	GPC England

Please note that all travel and other expenses for LMC observers should be met by the relevant LMC.

2016 general practice photo challenge - England

Earlier this year, Health Education England ran a photo challenge open to anyone who is passionate about or works in primary care. They have compiled and published an online book of entries – a snapshot of life in general practice in 2016.

Take a look at the photographs on the [Health Education England website](#) or on the '[Nothing general about general practice](#)' [Facebook page](#).

LMC access to the BMA website

It has been drawn to our attention that some LMCs may be having difficulty accessing the BMA website. All LMCs do have access, but need to use the login details registered for submitting conference motions. This may, however, be an individual's email address, registered to input conference motions only.

If you wish to create an office account, using the office email address as part of your login and a password that everyone can use, or if you are unsure of your current login details and password, please email Karen Day at kday@bma.org.uk and she will email you your relevant information.

LMCs – change of details

If there are any changes to LMC personnel, addresses and other contact details, please can you email Karen Day with the changes at kday@bma.org.uk.

The GPC UK next meets on 15 September 2016 and LMCs are invited to submit items for discussion. You may like to review these, beforehand, with the representatives in your area who serve on the GPC. The closing date for items is 6 September 2016. It would be helpful if items could be emailed to Michelle Palmer at mpalmer@bma.org.uk. You may also like to use the GPC's listservers to exchange views and ideas.

GPC News

LMCs are reminded that their regional representatives can provide more detailed information about the issues covered in GPC News, and other matters. Other members of the GPC would also be pleased to accept invitations to LMC meetings wherever possible. The secretariat can also provide a written background brief if required, but it would be helpful to have such requests well in advance of your meetings.

Finally, if LMCs require assistance on local issues, they can also contact the BMA's local offices. Their details are available on the BMA website.

This newsletter has been sent to:

Secretaries of LMCs and LMC offices
Members of the GPC
Members of the GP trainees subcommittee
Members of the sessional GPs subcommittee