



Londonwide LMCs

The professional voice of London general practice

xxx MP
House of Commons
Westminster
London SW1A 0AA

Michelle Drage
Londonwide LMCs
Tavistock House South
Tavistock Square
London
WC1H 9LG

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Dear xxx

Sustainability and Transformation Plans in London and GPs in xxx

Londonwide LMCs is the voice of general practice in London, supporting and representing GPs in the Capital. There are currently over 7,000 GPs working full-time and part-time in just over 1300 practice in London.

With GP providers and their statutory representatives the Local Medical Committees largely excluded from drawing up these STP plans for London, we are concerned that whilst the STP process talks about collaboration and service improvement, the reality is that these bodies seem to be principally charged with making efficiency savings rather than improving access or patient safety.

As we near October 2016, the point at which the STPs discussion are to be publicised, and the point at which the NHS' Five Year Forward View aspired to stabilise funding for general practice, the situation is still dire. The Forward View claimed to tackle retention and recruitment and introduce stability, but with our May/June workforce survey showing more GPs leaving the profession month on month; increasing vacancies for GPs and key staff across every part of the Capital; and a steady rise in the number of practice closures, it is clear the plan is not working. The promised influx of 5000 new GPs has already been watered down and seems less and less likely with every day that passes.

General practice in London is in a state of emergency. Half of London's general practices are short a key member of staff, over a third are missing at least one GP and over forty per cent have a GP planning to retire within the next three years. The remaining GPs, practice nurses and their teams are working flat out to fill in the gaps, but they're at breaking point and need help to deal with the growing complexity of London's health needs. Without increased support, the future of community general practice looks decidedly gloomy: delivering current service with fewer staff is unsustainable and unsafe in the long term, let alone stretching to an extended seven day services.

If you would like to find out about general practice in your area and meet with local doctors and practice staff, please contact my office at Patricha.Forrest@lmc.org.uk or 020 3818 6226. You can read more about our work to support hard pressed GPs in London, and our recent #GPStateofEmergency campaign on our website here: <http://www.gpsoe.org.uk/>.

Kind regards

Dr Michelle Drage, MBBS, FRCGP
Chief Executive, Londonwide LMCs

Londonwide LMCs is the brand name of Londonwide Local Medical Committees Limited

Registered and office address: Tavistock House South, Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9LG. T. 020 7387 2034/7418 F. 020 7383 7442 E. info@lmc.org.uk www.lmc.org.uk

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HEADLINES ON LONDONWIDE LMCs May /June 2016 GENERAL PRACTICE WORKFORCE SURVEY

The May/ June 2016 Londonwide LMCs Workforce Survey of London GP practices found:

Vacancy and retirement

- 49%, or 305, responding practices have a vacancy for a member of staff, with a combined patient list of 2,688,018 patients.
- 37%, or 234, responding practices have a GP vacancy.
- 43%, or 269, responding practices have a GP planning to retire in the next three years.
- 22%, or 141, responding practices have both a vacancy and a GP planning to retire in the next three years, affecting 1,241,002 registered patients.

Contract termination statistics* (See note 1)

- 3% of responding practices, covering an estimated 88,000 patients, plan to terminate their contract to provide NHS services in the next three years.
- 13% of responding practices, covering an estimated 580,058 patients, do not know if they will terminate their contract in the next three years.
- 15% of responding practices, covering an estimated 753,215 patients, will not rule out terminating their contract in the next three years.
- Only 70% of responding practices, covering an estimated 3,798,142 patients, say they do not intend to terminate their NHS contract in the next three years.

Actions practices are considering to manage current or future vacancies

- 39% of practices are considering employing additional locum or agency staff
- 31% of practices are considering succession planning
- 17% of practices are considering employing a pharmacist
- 15% of practices are considering reducing services
- 5% of practices are considering closing

Practices considering closing to manage current or future vacancies or terminating their contract

- Combined, 35 practices are either considering closing to manage current future vacancies or terminating their contract

1. All percentages are rounded, further information on methodology is available upon request.
2. The Londonwide LMCs Workforce Survey is held every six months and completed on behalf of London general practices by Practice Managers and Principal GPs from member practices across the 27 areas represented by Londonwide LMCs.
3. Londonwide LMCs is the only independent body in London representing 7,365 full and part-time GPs and 1317 practice teams across London (as of 15/04/2016).
4. Local medical committees are the statutory body representing GPs and practices; 27 London boroughs have a local medical committee, supported by Medical Directors working for the umbrella organisation (Londonwide LMCs) covering NW, NCE and South London.
5. Further information on Londonwide LMCs can be found on our website www.lmc.org.uk ; via Twitter @londonwidelmcs ; or on our campaigning website www.gpsoe.org.uk.

Methodology note:

ComRes interviewed 813 practice managers and principal GPs from 628 of Londonwide LMCs' member practices across the capital. Fieldwork was conducted between 25th May and 10th June 2016. The data have been weighted so that in total each practice counts as one response. ComRes is a member of the British Polling Council and abides by its rules. Full data tables are available at www.comres.co.uk.



HEADLINES ON GENERAL PRACTICE WORKFORCE ISSUES BY STP AREA

There are five STP footprints in London, of which Londonwide LMCs covers three areas wholly and two partially.

Based on the May/ June 2016 Londonwide LMCs Workforce Survey of London GP practices, there are concerns about the lack of attention being paid during the STP process to the significant workforce gaps within general practice in each of the five STP areas:

- **North West London STP, covering two million people across eight CCGs. Led by Dr Mohini Parmar, Chair, Ealing CCG.**
 - 245 GP practices, 2277 GPs (190 practices / 76% responded to the survey);
 - 73 practices have vacancies – 54 are down at least one GP, 31 are down at least one nurse, 34 practices are lacking at least two Drs or nurses;
 - 86 practices (45% of responding practices) confirm that they have a GP retiring within the next three years, with a further 31 practices who may have a GP retiring in that period;
 - 14 practices (7% of responding practices) are considering closure and 7 practices are planning to close within the next 3 years.
- **North Central London STP, covering 1.4 million people across five CCGs. Led by David Sloman, Chief Executive, Royal Free London NHS Foundation Trust.**
 - 248 GP practices, 1714 GPs (132 practices / 53% responded to the survey);
 - 63 practices have vacancies – 51 are down at least one GP, 22 are down at least one nurse, 26 practices are lacking at least two Drs or nurses;
 - 54 practices (41% of responding practices) confirm that they have a GP retiring within the next three years, with a further 23 practices who may have a GP retiring in that period;
 - 5 practices (4% of responding practices) are considering closure and 2 practices are planning to close within the next 3 years.
- **South East London STP, covering 1.7 million people across six CCGs. Led by Amanda Pritchard, Chief Executive, Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust.**
 - 427 GP practices, 1472 GPs (130 practices / 30% responded to the survey);
 - 75 practices have vacancies – 58 are down at least one GP, 38 are down at least one nurse, 42 practices are lacking at least two Drs or nurses;
 - 53 practices (41% of responding practices) confirm that they have a GP retiring within the next three years, with a further 23 practices who may have a GP retiring in that period;
 - 4 practices (3% of responding practices) are considering closure and 3 practices are planning to close within the next 3 years.



- ****North East London STP, covering 1.9 million people across seven CCGs. Led by Jane Milligan, Chief Officer, Tower Hamlets CCG.**
 - 283 GP practices, 1195 GPs (118 practices / 42% responded to the survey);
 - 60 practices have vacancies – 43 are down at least one GP, 33 are down at least one nurse, 34 practices are lacking at least two Drs or nurses;
 - 50 practices (42% of responding practices) confirm that they have a GP retiring within the next three years, with a further 21 practices who may have a GP retiring in that period;
 - 4 practices (3% of responding practices) are considering closure and 2 practices are planning to close within the next 3 years.

- ****South West London STP, covering 1.5 million people across six CCGs. Led by Kathryn Magson, Chief Officer, Richmond CCG.**
 - 110 GP practices, 638 GPs (59 practices / 54% responded to the survey);
 - 33 practices have vacancies – 28 are down at least one GP, 13 are down at least one nurse, 16 practices are lacking at least two Drs or nurses;
 - 26 practices (44% of responding practices) confirm that they have a GP retiring within the next three years, with a further 9 practices who may have a GP retiring in that period;
 - 4 practices (7% of responding practices) are considering closure and 2 practices are planning to close within the next 3 years.

Figures accurate at 8.8.16 based on Londonwide LMCs database of practices and GPs.

** partial coverage by Londonwide LMCs.

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