

Précis of June meeting of Derbyshire LMC

LMC website: <http://www.derbyshirelmc.org.uk>

BMA website <http://www.bma.org.uk/>

Derbyshire LMC met on the afternoon of 3 June 2010 at Santos Higham Farm. Dr Peter Williams was in the Chair and the following members were present: Drs Ashcroft, Bermingham, Dyer-Smith, Enoch, Gembali, Grenville, Hands, Jordan, Kama, King, Kinsella, Portnoy, Raj, Ryan, Shell, Tinker, Weston-Smith, Zammit-Maempel, & Kate Lawrence. Peter Holden has leave of absence whilst on GPC duties.

MATTERS ARISING

Derbyshire Community Health Services. John Grenville had attended a meeting on 26 May with Tracy Allen, Jackie Pendleton and other members of DCHS, the County PCT and County Council Social Services. They had discussed the national policy drivers behind the commissioning of children's services and agreed that GPs needed to be made aware of these. It was made clear that keeping Health Visitors integrated with practices was a priority for practices, who regarded that link as central to GP working. However, there was a shortage of Health Visitors and inconsistency across the county in their roles in helping practices with vaccinations and immunisations. The PBC consortia would be asked to take a lead in looking at equity issues. John Grenville emphasised the importance of the link between GPs, District Nurses and Health Visitors in protecting children. Several LMC members commented that the best vaccination uptake results came where there was cooperation between healthcare professionals.

Midwifery services. Following his attendance at the May LMC meeting, Derek Bray had written to say that he had spoken to Eric Morton, who would be happy to attend an LMC meeting or talk with the GPs concerned. The LMC would arrange a meeting.

James Gray, Medical Director, and Ian Forrest, Chairman of Derbyshire County PCT, would be attending the July LMC meeting.

Ophthalmic referrals. The LMC had asked for a report of the meeting of the Derbyshire Community Eye Care Commissioning Group on 19 May and an update on the position regarding direct referrals for ophthalmic patients.

Procedures of Limited Clinical Value. John Grenville and Peter Williams had met Richard Richards on 13 May. The meeting had not been to discuss individual procedures but to consider how to communicate the PLCV decisions to doctors and patients. GPs would be able to apply to a treatment panel with individual queries. John Grenville confirmed that a GP had a duty to discuss options with patients; if an option had been blocked by the PCT, the GP had fulfilled his ethical and moral duty and any complaints could be directed towards the PCT. Richard Richards had clarified that, if a patient was referred to a hospital in another area where PLCV was not operating, the procedure would not be funded by Derby City or Derbyshire County PCTs.

Fairer Funding. There would be a meeting of a joint group of GPs, Practice Managers with the two PCTs on 24 June. The LMC was coordinating representation from City GPs. As a member of the County Fairer Funding pilot, Rachel Tinker advised PMS GPs to have a clear idea of payments and services in their current contracts.

CITY PCT

(a) *QES.* Meetings of a panel of PMs and GPs had taken place and significant changes had been made to the QES scheme and the KPIs. GPC had confirmed that the PCT was obliged to offer separate DESs to practices, if practices wished to take them up in this way. Another open meeting of GPs had been organised by the LMC on 19 May, which had been well attended.

The LMC would continue to give support to practices, whether they decided to sign up to the QES or to individual DESs.

(b) *Meeting with Ian Matthews, Medical Director.* The following issues were discussed at a meeting on 26 May:- DMARDs, electronic discharge summaries, Normanton/Peartree premises, PCT financial position.

(c) *Meeting with Rakesh Marwaha, Director of Performance and Knowledge Management.* Now that most practices within City PCT were using System One, the PCT was hoping to have a network between practices and other agencies. There were issues of confidentiality and John Grenville would be sitting on a Board to consider these.

COUNTY PCT

Report of meeting of General Practice Operational Group (GPOG) on 21 May.

The following issues had been discussed:- IUCD and Implanon LES; premises funding – this was one area where the PCT had a lever over practices, but the LMC view was that equity of standard of premises from the patients' perspective should be the only driver for new premises; vaccinations and immunisations; IAPT; 084 numbers – practices needed to acquire a letter from their telephone supplier demonstrating that charges were no higher when calling from a fixed line; repeat dispensing – there was a problem with oversupply of drugs when every item on a patient's repeat prescription list was dispensed each month. Gareth McCague agreed that there needed to be a joint statement from the LMC and LPC to remind GPs and pharmacies to ensure that only the required item was supplied. LMC members agreed that there was huge waste within the system. Peter Williams said that his practice sent unused drugs to Africa via Interhealth.

COMMUNITY HOSPITALS

John Grenville and Peter Williams had met with Tim Broadley and Ben Lobo, Directors of DCHS, to discuss the protocols for GPs working in community hospitals. Community hospitals would have to register with the Care Quality Commission by April 2011 and it appeared that CQC was currently intending to require standards that seemed more appropriate for large general hospitals. There was an issue around Basic Life Support training for all staff working within community hospitals and it was hoped that agreement could be reached with the CQC nationally that doctors who fulfilled QOF requirements (evidence of training over the last 15 months) would be regarded as being appropriately skilled. It was agreed that a further meeting would be held and that Peter Holden should also be involved in discussions.

CORRESPONDENCE

(a) From GPC – *M-circular*. Issue 9 had been circulated to LMC members. The Sessional GPs Working Group report had been published. The LMC would send this to sessional GPs and would give it further consideration at the next LMC meeting.

(b) From ITN News – *NHS Alliance Conference*. LMCs had been invited to pay £12,500 for ITN News to make a short film to be shown at the NHS Alliance Conference. Derbyshire LMC declined the offer.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(a) *NHS Health Check*. It was noted that the national leaflet regarding free NHS Health Checks suggested to the public that such checks would rule out the possibility of diabetes but that the protocol laid down did not achieve this.

There was no other business and the Chairman closed the meeting at 4.20 pm.