

LMC Update Email

18 January 2019

Dear Colleagues,

GP partnership review

The Department of Health and Social Care (England) published their [GP Partnership review report](#) this week. The review was independently chaired by Dr Nigel Watson in collaboration with NHS England, GPC and RCGP. I have thanked Nigel for the significant work he has done. We welcome this report which addresses the issues of risk, workload, workforce and status in the system, and identifies the major problems as being about resources, implementation and delivery.

In response to the publication of this report I said “This important report, and the support offered to it both by the Secretary of State and the chief executive of NHS England, provides clear backing at the highest level to the partnership model as the best way of delivering what most patients want – and that is good quality continuity of care delivered by a locally-based team, embedded within their community, who they know and trust. The model, which gives practices the autonomy and independence to innovate while building quality relationships with people in their local community and being able to advocate on their behalf, is why both patients and the CQC continue to rate general practice so highly.”

[Pulse](#) reported on the recommendations and I commented: “As the review suggests, there isn't a simple alternative legal structure that could significantly limit liability whilst maintaining a partnership model, which is why the review suggests further legal opinions are sought to clarify this. We would not want to see practices' contracts put at risk of being time-limited and put out to competition.”

Read the full review and associated case studies [here](#). There are also a number of videos explaining the different sections:

- Summary of the GP Partnership review - <https://youtu.be/DQnDVzIZxvg>
- Introduction Vblog <https://youtu.be/huApVopK5IU>
- Workforce part 1 - <https://youtu.be/mSoWcTBBEXw>
- Workforce part 2 - <https://youtu.be/zp2miKX5ZUE>
- Risk - https://youtu.be/U7_8Nhr-As

Read more [here](#), in [BMA News](#), and [BMA press release](#). It was reported in [Pulse](#), [GP Online](#) and [HSJ](#)

DDRB evidence

The Department of Health and Social Care has published their DDRB evidence for 2018-19 today, which can be accessed [here](#).

Yesterday the BMA published a statement after publishing our evidence which stated: “Many doctors are on the brink of breaking point with low levels of moral and plans to retire early. Since 2008 our members have experienced a real-terms pay cut of up to 30%. Many doctors are now on the brink of breaking point with low levels of morale and plans to retire early. To avert this crisis the Government and DDRB must recognise the value of doctors”. Read the full statement and our submission to the DDRB [here](#).

EU Exit operational readiness guidance – summary for primary care

The GPC has published a summary for primary care of the '[EU Exit operational readiness guidance](#)'

which is now available on the [BMA website](#). Further information about the BMA position on Brexit is available [here](#).

Primary care networks deadline

Pulse has reported that according to the [NHS operational planning guidance](#), CCGs will have to ensure primary care networks (PCNs) are in place by the end of June, and that PCNs should have practices collaborate and to work with community, mental health, social care, pharmacy, hospital and voluntary services to provide care to their local populations. In response to this article I commented: “LMCs should work with their CCGs to ensure common sense prevails in these developments, and to support practices to work out what is the best fit for their area. The intention is to focus services around local communities and the therefore the practices that are within them.” Read the full article in [Pulse](#)

Update on pensions issues in Scotland

The Chair of GPC Scotland, Dr Andrew Buist, has written a blog about he is addressing the issue of the proposed increase in employer’s pension contributions. Read the blog [here](#).

It was also reported in Pulse on how Scottish GPC are seeking reassurance from the Government that practices will not be billed for a proposed increase in employer pension contributions. Dr Buist also said that the proposals had caused a great deal of anxiety among GPs: “I have been speaking directly with Scottish Government primary care officials to be absolutely clear that this is unacceptable, and GPs being forced to meet these extra costs could have an extremely damaging effect on recruitment and retention – and the sustainability of practices.” Read the [Pulse article here](#)

GPC regional representative elections

Nominations are now open for GPC regional representatives for the 2019-2022 sessions. Representatives will be elected for the following regions and nations:

- Cambridgeshire, Bedfordshire
- Hertfordshire
- North & South Essex
- Barking & Havering, Redbridge & Waltham Forest, City & East London
- Cumbria & Lancashire
- Wigan & Bolton, Bury & Rochdale, West Pennine
- Northern Ireland
- Ayrshire & Arran, Borders, Dumfries & Galloway, Lanarkshire
- South & West Devon, Cornwall & Isles of Scilly
- Hampshire & Isle of Wight
- Kent
- Surrey & Croydon
- East Yorkshire, North Lincolnshire, Lincolnshire
- Calderdale, Kirklees, Leeds, Wakefield

Nominations are also open in a by-election for the North Yorkshire, Bradford representative (elected for the 2019-2020 session).

To find out more, including an election pack with the eligibility criteria and election timetable, click [here](#). Nominations will remain open until **12pm Monday 4 February**.

The election will take place using the BMA’s online election system, and to participate you will need your BMA online login details. You can create an online account or recover your account details by clicking [here](#). You do not need to be a BMA member to create a BMA website account. If you have

any questions regarding the election process, please contact elections@bma.org.uk.

Have you re-trained as a GP? – volunteers needed (England only)

In their continuing efforts to increase the annual intake of new GP trainees, Health Education England is looking for a number of volunteers (in England) from trainees across all other medical specialities, consultants, trust and staff grade doctors who would be willing to share their experience (case study) to help inform other doctors about the merits of training for a career in general practice. They [have some examples](#) but, having proved so popular, they need some more. HEE are requesting a short case study, with an accompanying photo, and consent to promote it on the [GP National Recruitment Office](#) website and through social media. If you are interested and would like to help, please email gprecruitment@hee.nhs.uk for guidance and more information. Read the latest GPC newsletter [here](#)

Have a good weekend.

Richard