

GP SUB-COMMITTEE OF NHS Lothian Area Medical Committee

Monday 23rd February 2026

7.30pm

MS Teams

Chair – Dr Andrew Forder

MINUTES

Attendees – Dr Andrew Forder, Dr Annie Lomas, Dr Neil MacRitchie, Dr Gordon Black, Dr Stuart Blake, Dr Peter Cairns, Dr Michelle Downer, Dr Jenny English, Dr Fiona Ferguson, Dr Alexander Kelly, Dr Hazel Knox, Dr Kate MacKenzie, Dr Ramon McDermott, Dr Laura Montgomery, Dr Iain Morrison, Dr Nick Payne, Dr Katherine Robertson, Dr Kim Rollinson, Dr Suzy Scarlett, Dr Joanna Smail, Dr Debbie Strachan, Dr Elizabeth Strachan, Dr Jane Sweeney, Dr Laura Tweedie, Dr Jeremy Chowings, Dr Hayley Harris, Ms Elaine Weir, Mrs Nicola Smith

Apologies – Dr Catriona Morton, Ms Tracey McKigen, Ms Alison McNeillage, Dr Euan Alexander, Dr Rory O’Conaire

Welcome - Ms Jillian Torrens, *Service Director, Royal Edinburgh Hospital*
Dr Anna Beaglehole, *newly appointed Clinical Director, Midlothian HSCP*
Dr Christina Lang, *GP, Crewe Medical Practice, observing*
Dr Michael Ravelo, *GPST3, Crewe Medical Practice, observing*

Chair opened the meeting and warmly welcomed committee members and guests.

1. Presentation: Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)

Ms Jillian Torrens, Service Director, Royal Edinburgh Hospital, gave a short presentation to committee on Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) within Lothian.

The ongoing concern around CAMHS waiting times was highlighted, and it was acknowledged that in 2025, NHS Lothian were recording the longest wait times in Scotland, with most patients waiting over 52 weeks for an initial CAMHS assessment. The national target is 18 weeks. It was also noted that it is generally the most complex young people who are experiencing the longest waits, mainly as a result of limited capacity and specific treatment requirements.

Following escalation within Scottish Government, one-off funding of £550k was allocated to the service in order to address the backlog.

As a result, it was agreed that by June 2026 there would be no waits in excess of 52 weeks. Capacity has been built into the system and Ms Torrens informed committee that, by the end of February, the number of Lothian patients waiting more than 52 weeks for their initial CAMHS assessment would fall to 30.

Committee raised additional concerns that, following initial CAMHS assessment, patients then join a further waiting list with wait times in excess of 1 year, and a recent example was given of a 187 week wait time. There were strong concerns that this further wait is not captured in any service data, and the likely impact on life choices for young people who are missing key education stages of their life was extremely worrying. It was noted that both NHS Lothian Board and Integration Joint Boards (IJB) are aware of these further waits, while acknowledging that a lot more work is needed in this area.

In the interest of transparency and the ability for GPs to guide conversations with patients, committee requested that local CAMHS wait times are published on RefHelp, and this will be looked into further.

It was clarified that both Neurodivergence and Mental Health should be assessed at the same initial assessment.

It was noted that approximately 40% of CAMHS referrals do not meet the threshold and the service is keen to continue to work with all stakeholders to ensure that these patients are supported.

There was an appetite to discuss the CAMHS service further with relevant stakeholders to consider other opportunities to improve the position.

AP – Office to look to set up a meeting with relevant stakeholders to further discuss CAMHS in Lothian.

Committee expressed their view that the current situation within CAMHS should be recorded on NHS Lothian's Risk Register.

Committee thanked Jillian for attending and providing an informative and helpful update.

2. **Minutes of the last meeting 26th January 2026**

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

3. **Matters Arising / Actions from last meeting;**

3.1 – **TM** to provide updates to committee on any waiting time initiatives underway in NHS Lothian. **Update:** The new National Waitlist Guidance was acknowledged. To remain on the agenda awaiting further updates on local initiatives. **ONGOING**

3.2 - **JC** to get clarity on the reasons for the 2 additional data points within QI & Safety ES. **Update:** The additional data points will help practices understand whether their change has resulted in an improvement. If the data for the practice's main outcome measure is difficult to collect, a process measure can be used instead. The reduction in mandatory requirements should give practices more time for data. **CLOSED**

3.3 - **ALL** to consider/encourage feedback from anyone with experience of using the new "eKIS Information for GP/LUCS for Paediatric Palliative Patients" form. This can be sent direct to Hayley Harris (LUCS) or the office team. **CLOSED**

3.4 - **Office** to raise concerns around the impending shortage of co-codamol with PCCO ahead of the next Oversight meeting. **Update:** This has been done. **CLOSED**

4. **Draft Enhanced Services 2026/27**

It was noted that the majority of the proposed Enhanced Service (ES) contracts for 2026/27 have been brought to and discussed at previous committee meetings as they have emerged. A summary of those already discussed was shared in advance of the meeting.

We continue to await decisions from Scottish Government on Cardiovascular Disease (CVD), Frailty and Pre-Diabetes ES. While it is hoped that decisions will be made soon, it was agreed that those already reviewed by committee should be issued to practices now in order to give them sufficient time to review and consider.

AP – PCCO to issue the current list of proposed 2026/27 ES contracts to practices to allow sufficient time to review and consider.

It was noted that, while the submission deadline for the 2025/26 CVD ES is 28th February, as some surplus funding remains, the deadline will be extended to the end of the contract year. It was highlighted that this extension only applies to those practices who have not yet reached their target number of CVD Risk Reviews set by Scottish Government in May. For practices who have already claimed up to their level set, any further work carried out will not generate payment.

It was noted that the current 2025/26 Frailty ES also has a submission deadline of 28th February however, as the budget has now been fully utilised, there will be no extension to the deadline for the 2025/26 contract year.

5. **Facilities SLA update**

The ongoing concern from practices in respect of the upcoming end to the pause placed on the planned increase from 50% to 75% of the new service costs was noted.

It was shared that the current understanding is that the 50% pause will remain in place until more of the detail around the wider non-staff costs reimbursement and the subsequent premises discussions with Scottish Government is known.

Committee welcomed this positive news.

6. **Legionella**

Committee were informed of a recent case of Legionella bacteria being found to be present within a Lothian practice building. It was noted that the practice are working with NHS Lothian and the HSCP in order to resolve the situation as quickly as possible.

A number of concerns were raised with regards to the process.

It was acknowledged that the extremely high appointed contractor costs levied in this case raise very similar questions to that of the ongoing Facilities SLA discussions, and Committee's continuing concerns over whether NHS Lothian appointed contractors have the appropriate level of expertise and also represent good value were voiced. The value for money aspect of these significant costs needs to be explored further.

It was acknowledged that it is extremely complicated for practices to fully understand the ongoing maintenance requirements, let alone manage any situation once diagnosed. The current lack of support for practices to produce Water Management Plans and carry out risk assessments was noted, and PCCO have been approached to identify suitable training for practices.

It is extremely concerning that another Lothian practice is experiencing this very difficult situation, and committee queried whether any learning was taken from an earlier Legionella outbreak in 2023. The role of Facilities Management and NHS Lothian is to facilitate and support independent contractors and enable them to deliver GMS, and in times of crisis there needs to be collaborative working to find the best solution.

It was agreed that the Committee Chair and PCCO will meet to discuss further.

AP – AF & JC to meet to discuss recent Legionella case and the wider concerns raised.

7. **GPAS**

The January report was shared in advance of the meeting.

The picture has remained fairly static across the board. The extremely useful practice comments were highlighted.

8. **Medical Directors Business**

None.

9. **AOCB**

9.1 – Weight Management Prescribing Requests. Practices are reporting an increasing number of requests from specialist areas asking GPs to prescribe GLP-1 agonists specifically for weight management for current diabetes patients whose treatment is under control. It was agreed that the office would contact the specific specialties to remind them that GPs are unable to prescribe for these cases.

AP – Office to contact specific specialty to remind them that GPs are unable to action their recent requests to prescribe GLP-1 specifically for Weight Loss Management.

9.2 - Digital Dermatology. Acknowledging the outsourcing of some Dermatology work to other NHS Scotland Boards, Committee raised concerns regarding the handling of some GP referrals. There have been increasing numbers of requests from the outsourced Board asking GPs to provide advice and/or treatment to the patient, work which would previously have been the responsibility of the specialist area. They do not appear to have made any further contact with individual patients to enable them to tailor the advice, and no specialist follow-up is offered. The office has received a significant number of these concerns which have been raised directly with Claire Leitch, and this will continue to be monitored closely.

9.3 - Ambient Voice Technologies. Committee were informed that communications will be issued to practices in the near future regarding approving the use of different technologies for specific activities.

Meeting closed.

Date of next meeting - **Monday 23rd March 2026 at Novotel Edinburgh Park**