

GP SUB-COMMITTEE OF NHS Lothian Area Medical Committee

Monday 21st June 2021
7.30 pm
Virtual meeting via MS Teams

Chair - Dr Iain Morrison

MINUTES

Attending – Dr Iain Morrison, Dr Jenny English, Dr Neil MacRitchie, Dr Euan Alexander, Dr Robin Balfour, Dr Drummond Begg, Dr Gordon Black, Dr Stuart Blake, Dr Peter Cairns, Dr Alastair Clubb (EL HSCP representative), Dr Andrew Forder, Dr Kerri Greene, Dr John Hardman, Dr Clementine Johns, Dr Annie Lomas, Dr Waheed Mahmood, Dr Ramon McDermott, Dr Laura Montgomery, Dr Catriona Morton, Dr Rory O’Conaire, Dr Nick Payne, Dr Hamish Reid, Dr Katherine Robertson, Dr Amy Small, Dr Catherine Smith, Dr Shelagh Stewart, Dr Elizabeth Strachan, Dr Laura Tweedie, Dr Ros Wight, Ms Sandra Allan, Ms Tracey Gillies, Dr Hayley Harris, Ms Jenny Long, Ms Alison McNeillage, Dr Nigel Williams

Apologies – Dr Carl Bickler, Dr Jane Sweeney

Welcome – Dr Robert Duncan, *RCGP Chair, SE Faculty*
Jenny Long, *Director of Primary Care*

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

1. Introduction from Dr Robert Duncan, Chair, RCGP SE Faculty

Chair thanked Dr Robert Duncan for joining the meeting before Dr Duncan gave a brief overview of the role of the RCGP.

Dr Duncan became Chair of the South East region of RCGP (covering the Lothians, Borders and Fife) in February 2021. 3 of its main aims are to contribute to the National voice, keep members informed of policy changes and run training, educational and social/networking events.

The RCGP Scotland publication “From the Frontline – The changing landscape of Scottish General Practice” was highlighted as being used on several occasions as a base for wider discussions. <https://www.rcgp.org.uk/-/media/Files/RCGP-faculties-and-devolved-nations/Scotland/RCGP-Scotland/2019/RCGP-scotland-frontline-june-2019.ashx?la=en>

While unable to run as many events recently, the SE Faculty have been involved in recent elections hustings with representation from each of the main parties, and have also held wellbeing events. Details of future events planned can be found on the website <https://www.rcgp.org.uk/courses-and-events/events-search-results.aspx?f=South%20East%20Scotland%20faculty>.

Dr Duncan encouraged anyone who wants to get involved or attend any event to get in touch. Although most posts are voluntary, a paid position vacancy is currently being advertised – see website for more information.

2. Introduction from Jenny Long, Director of Primary Care

Having recently taken on the role of Director of Primary Care for NHS Lothian, Jenny Long introduced herself to Committee and added that she was very happy to be in the role and looked forward to working with everyone.

3. Minutes of last meeting 17th May 2021, for approval

The minutes from the previous meeting were approved.

4. Matters Arising/Actions from last meeting

4.1 - **LMC office** to discuss concerns around the East Lothian CWIC roll out with the HSCP team. **Update:** While a meeting is still planned to take place with Iain Gorman, East Lothian HSCP, other events relating to this issue (local press coverage and MSP involvement) have taken over. A further update to Committee will follow and next steps agreed.

4.2 – **All HSCPs** were asked to resubmit their PCIP Trackers with full financial data, with sign-off from Finance. **Update:** Done. All PCIP trackers have now been submitted to Scottish Government.

4.3 - **ALL**. Anyone interested in getting involved in the Psychiatry Clinical Advisory Group, please contact LMC office or discuss further with Iain Morrison. **Update:** Covered in Agenda item 9.

4.4 - **ALL**. Any further volunteers for Area Medical Committee should contact LMC office. **Update:** Covered in Agenda item 9.

5. COVID Programme Update

Over 70 practices signed up to the vaccine programme “mop-up” DES agreed with PCCO. Feedback from practices that didn’t feel able to sign up followed common themes of workload pressures, staff exhaustion and unrelenting patient demand and Committee fully recognised the challenges that practices are experiencing.

Discussions are currently ongoing with the Programme Board to agree the process for patients from practices that didn’t sign up to the DES.

COVID Pathway

COVID Triage and Community Assessment Centre (CAC) staffing relies on a very small workforce and, with some staff now serving notice, the service is more exposed. Following a joint GP Sub Committee and LUCS request for support, a wider request was made to those practices that feel they have the capacity to triage their patients that would normally have been diverted at reception, and to direct those identified as possible COVID cases needing further clinical assessment straight to the CAC. This additional step would be gratefully appreciated, in addition to improving the patient journey.

It was stressed that work is ongoing to ensure there are formal processes in place going forward, however in the meantime any assistance that practices can give to reduce unplanned activity being passed onto LUCS is appreciated. Feedback from Committee members who recently carried out shifts for LUCS backed up these concerns.

Tracey Gillies added her thanks to everyone helping with this, and recognised the difficulties.

Further clarity was sought on the referral pathway for children with suspected COVID symptoms. The RefHelp guidance was highlighted [20200907-COVID kids - final.pdf \(nhslothian.scot\)](#).

6. PPE Update

It was noted that recent guidance issued by National Infection Prevention and Control raised a number of questions and we have since contacted Lindsay Guthrie, Lead Infection and Prevention Control Nurse for further comment on how to interpret the guidance.

Lindsay is awaiting further clarity from the national team and will update us when this is available. Therefore, there is currently no firm change in guidance at the moment although we are hopeful of some improvements in the near future.

7. GP IT Vision Demonstration update

Peter Cairns gave a brief summary of a recent demonstration of the Vision Anywhere system, currently being considered for the new Lothian GP IT system.

Overall feedback was mainly positive, with the Vision team appearing to have a roadmap and strategy that make sense alongside a credible timescale. Once the demo has been seen by each of the representative team and following a short consultation period, a decision will be made on whether this will be considered as a serious contender for Lothian.

Dataloch. A recent press article in The Herald regarding Dataloch was highlighted to Committee. It was noted that this article was based on an English example and that Lothian's Dataloch is very much centred around our own patients and users and is a very different proposition from the GDPR system data to be gathered from GP surgeries in England. A briefing has been prepared for GP practices to assist with the handling of any queries as a result of the article.

AP – PC to share GP briefing on Dataloch with practices following the recent article in The Herald.

8. GP Prescribing Committee

Committee were updated on recent discussions regarding Shared Care Agreements (SCA) at GP Prescribing Committee (GPPC).

It was noted that SCAs should be suitably resourced if they have a GP impact (e.g. testing/ results handling), with the suggestion that the ideal route could be for them to be added to the Enhanced Service for Near Patient Testing. However as an advisory committee on clinical governance and clinical safety of prescribing in primary care, such resource requests are not within the remit of GPPC.

Clarity was being sought as to the process for acquiring this resource.

Following some discussion, it was agreed that the Area Drugs and Therapeutics Committee (ADTC) should be the forum for these requests, and Tracey Gillies agreed to make contact with ADTC to discuss further.

AP – TG to contact ADTC to determine the process for SCA resource requests (cc Annie Lomas in discussion for info).

Committee requested that draft SCAs are not published until any resource requirements have been finalised to avoid the risk of it being assumed that the process is fully agreed prior to approval from GP Sub, etc.

9. Medical Directors Business

9.1– Vacancies update.

An update on a number of recently advertised committee vacancies was given;

- Area Drugs and Therapeutics Committee (ADTC) – Dr Amy Small
- Psychiatric and Psychological Service Clinical Advisory Group (CAG) – Dr Iain Morrison & Dr Catriona Morton (with additional support from Dr Jenny English and Dr Neil MacRitchie when needed)
- Lothian Area Medical Committee (AMC) – Dr Laura Montgomery (will look to change the day of these meetings to accommodate attendees).

10. AOCB

10.1- Infection Control Guidance to Practices

Committee shared their great disappointment in the lack of updated national guidance on Infection Control. As we move into July, the need to provide guidance to practices on what further opening up of GP premises looks like was stressed. Concerns were raised around the lateness of previous Primary Care guidance and the prior focus on guidance appropriate mainly for Secondary Care. Examples of the types of guidance needed were given;

- Can curtains go back up in examination areas
- What are the long term plans for carpets
- Any changes to PPE
- Any changes to wiping down between patients
- Red rooms versus Amber areas only

AP – LMC office to get updated Infection Control Guidance out to practices as soon as we have this (from Lindsay Guthrie).

10.2– Dermatology Advice Only Service

It was noted that the “advice only” service is being withdrawn from Dermatology, however Committee have raised concerns with the relevant management, highlighting the importance of this service in reducing the number of incoming referrals, and this has been recognised. In addition, the rapid imaging service currently in place within practices is also assisting the current Dermatology service.

It was highlighted that the service will remain in place only for referrals to the Covid Vaccine Allergy Exception Pathway.

Tracey Gillies and Iain Morrison agreed to look further into the proposed removal of the advice only dermatology service.

AP – TG & IM to discuss the proposed removal of the “advice only” dermatology service.

The meeting closed.

Date of next meeting – Monday 16th August 2021, 7.30pm