

# GP SUB-COMMITTEE OF NHS Lothian Area Medical Committee

Monday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2023

**7.30pm**  
MS Teams

Chair –Dr Iain Morrison

## MINUTES

**Attendance:** Dr Iain Morrison, Dr Neil MacRitchie, Dr Annie Lomas, Dr Euan Alexander, Dr Stuart Blake, Dr Peter Cairns, Dr Elaine Duncan, Dr Jenny English, Dr Fiona Ford, Dr Andrew Forder, Dr Rebecca Green, Dr John Hardman, Dr Clementine Johns, Dr Alexander Kelly, Dr Hazel Knox, Dr John Magill, Dr Maria Marecka, Dr Jane Marshall, Dr Ramon McDermott, Dr Laura Montgomery, Dr Catriona Morton, Dr Rory O’Conaire, Dr Nick Payne, Dr Katherine Robertson, Dr Shelagh Stewart, Dr Elizabeth Strachan, Dr Jane Sweeney, Dr Laura Tweedie, Ms Tracey Gillies, Dr Jeremy Chowings, Ms Jenny Long, Dr Hayley Harris, Ms Alisson Stewart, Mrs Nicola Smith

**Apologies –** Ms Alison McNeillage, Dr Colin McArthur, Dr Gordon Black

**Welcome –** Dr Laura Tweedie, *newly elected NE Edinburgh representative*  
Dr Samuel Glass, *ST3, Inchpark Medical Practice*

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

### 1. Minutes of the last meeting 27<sup>th</sup> February 2023

The following proposed change to agenda item 9 (GMS Oversight Group Update) was approved;

*from* “There was increased frustration at the continued lack of Scottish Government guidance on CTACS, Pharmacotherapy and Urgent Care, fully recognising that these services are scheduled to become the legal responsibility of Health Boards from April.”

*to* “There was increased frustration ....., these services are scheduled to become the legal responsibility of Health Boards from 1<sup>st</sup> April.”

Following acceptance of this change, the minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

### 2. Matters Arising / Actions from last meeting;

2.1 - **ALL** to feed back any suggestions of ways to help with current extremely low staff morale to Calum Campbell. **Update:** Committee were reminded to feed back any suggestions to the office. **CLOSED**

2.2 - Agree the best approach for Calum Campbell to engage with GPs going forward. **Update:** It was agreed that following a productive meeting held recently between Calum Campbell, Iain Morrison and Jenny Long, it is hoped that similar meetings are held every 6 months and this would be the best method of engagement. GPs should feed any topics for discussion into the office/Iain Morrison for raising at the next meeting. **CLOSED**

2.3 - **AMcN** to review the GP Assignment Policy with regards to allocating out with practice boundary and also the process for re-allocating assigned out of boundary patients.  
**Update:** Carry forward.

2.4 - **JC** to issue an email to practices confirming the position with Health Visitors viewing practice records. **Update:** Following on from the February meeting update, Pat Wynne will speak to nursing colleagues to reinstate the process, and following this an email will be issued to practices to clarify. It was also noted that IT have been approached with the aim of looking for a solution to the access constraints for health visitors who are not co-located in the same building as the practice they cover. **CLOSED**

### 3 **Patient Registrations/Virtual Practice update** (Standing item)

It was noted that current focus is on finding potential solutions for South East Edinburgh which is currently experiencing the biggest impact across Lothian.

The proposed approach by Edinburgh HSCP is for a Capital Medical Team, rather than Capital Medical Practice, where practices that are keen to grow their list will be supported by Edinburgh HSCP to build their PCIP-funded practice team to capacity. South East Edinburgh is currently the biggest concern, however other areas may have similar issues. It was also acknowledged that while this is currently an Edinburgh HSCP plan, it may be worth considering for other areas if required. It was however acknowledged that recruitment into these teams would continue to be a challenge.

Committee also expressed their ongoing frustration that the level of population growth across Lothian isn't reflected in PCIP funding allocations.

### 4. **Vaccine Transformation Programme Review SLWG update**

A brief summary of progress was provided to Committee.

It was noted that the new vaccine team is currently bedding in.

While vaccine take-up rates for flu and COVID are better in Scotland than in other home nations, work continues to look at improvements to the wider processes. Some examples are the referral process for ad-hoc/out of cycle vaccines, and the re-referral requirements for those unable to attend a scheduled appointment

A further update will be brought to Committee following the next working group meeting.

### 5. **Cervical Screening Audit**

A draft of NHS Lothian's guidance to impacted practices on a second stream of national cervical screening exclusion audit activity (as detailed in the Scottish Government letter 28<sup>th</sup> February 2023) was shared with Committee in advance.

Practices were already aware of the first stream of activity (Scottish Government letter 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022), with each practice given a list of patients with either a "No cervix" or "No further recall" open exclusion, and an ask of practices to review the records of all of these women and provide specific details to the Health Board.

It was highlighted that, while practices have only recently received the data to allow them to carry out the first stream of activity, pre-payment for this work was made to practices in March 2022. A payment of £2.75 per patient was based on an estimate for each practice, however there have been a number of examples of significant under payments. Practices are therefore encouraged to compare the payment they received against the actual list

number provided as they may need to claim for the shortfall, although details of how this financial reconciliation will occur are still to be confirmed.

Following receipt of the information provided by practices, the Health Board will then carry out a review, and it's expected that there will be a proportion of individuals whose records are inconclusive. The second stream of activity will re-instate those patients with inconclusive records into the national screening programme, and they will receive a letter to attend their GP practice for a smear. Copies of the letters will be given to practices for information. It's estimated there will be 8000 patients requiring re-instatement across Scotland.

An advance payment of £12.58 will be paid for each patient with an inconclusive status, with a reconciliation exercise planned for January 2024 to ensure practices do not incur financial loss. Practices are encouraged to keep a record of how many smears are carried out and check this against the payment received.

It was noted that this activity is significantly behind schedule, however it's unclear if this is the case nationally or specific to Lothian.

**AP - TG** offered to take back any comments or concerns relating to the national cervical screening exclusion audit to Public Health.

## 6. **Guidance for Masculinising and Feminising Treatments**

The guidance document was shared with Committee in advance.

It was highlighted that this is a clinical guidance document rather than a Shared Care Agreement, and it will be published as a form of reference only. It was also highlighted that this remains a specialist service and while useful guidance has been provided, GPs are under no obligation to provide this service.

It was acknowledged that a number of practices are already prescribing for this and, other than the prescribing itself, many of the responsibilities outlined in the document are aspects that GPs will already need to be aware of and give consideration to. The guidelines on Refhelp were highlighted as a source of information.

It was noted that, until CTACS are functioning at an appropriate level to provide phlebotomy, the specialist service retains responsibility for this work.

## 7. **CTACS Withdrawal/Consolidation in East Lothian**

Committee were informed that the CTAC service based in Gullane practice has recently been consolidated into the centralised service in Haddington due to workforce pressures. While understanding that when resource is finite consolidation may have to happen, concerns were raised around the service being accessible to all populations, and the potential risks to similar services in other locations.

It was acknowledged that full consideration of the impact on these populations was given, and that the aim is for this consolidation to be temporary until CTACs has returned to full capacity.

It was also highlighted that, at the most recent SGPC meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> March, no indication was given as to when the specifications for Health Board ownership of CTACS and other services (from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023) would be issued.

## 8. **GPAS**

The February report, shared with Committee in advance, was summarised.

The first week in February was pretty bleak for General Practice, however there was some recovery later in the month and the overall picture for February was much more stable in comparison to January.

It was noted that Devon LMC are about to start a pilot to bring together a national picture, and this will run throughout April. Lothian data will be included in the pilot.

Committee once again thanked Lothian practices for submitting their data.

## 9. **Primary Care Intranet Website**

The recently launched Primary Care Intranet website [Primary Care \(scot.nhs.uk\)](http://Primary_Care_(scot.nhs.uk)) was highlighted to Committee. This will be a centralised source for weekly updates and a good repository for lots of helpful information.

It was highlighted that the site remains a work in progress, and any comments can be fed back to Michaela Muir or Jenny Long.

## 10. **Medical Directors Business**

### 10.1 – **Representative movements & vacancies;**

#### i) **NE Edinburgh representative**

- Dr Laura Tweedie has re-joined committee

#### ii) **GP Prescribing Committee (GPPC)**

- Dr Hazel Knox has taken this on this representative role.

#### iii) **Area Drugs & Therapeutics Committee (ADTC) – 2 VACANCIES**

- These vacancies remain unfilled, and a further request was issued to committee for volunteers.

#### iv) **East Lothian HSCP Clinical Director**

- Dr John Hardman has been appointed as Clinical Director, East Lothian HSCP

### 10.2 – **PCIP Trackers, v6**

- The next iteration of PCIP trackers are due to be submitted to Scottish Government on 5<sup>th</sup> May, and therefore it was requested that these are brought to the GP Sub meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> April for review. The desire for these to contain as much details as possible in order to give a true reflection of the position of General Practice was highlighted.

## 11. **AOCB**

11.1 – **Essential Users Parking Pass.** A consultation is currently underway to review the Essential User Permit (EUP) and also consider introducing a new permit for carers. We have highlighted the current high demand and struggle for spaces, particularly within Edinburgh, and that increasing the number of passes is likely to make this even more challenging.

It was noted that staff with an EUP can park on a single yellow line with a single blip (not double), except for during the prohibited times shown on the parking plate nearby (prohibited times are usually morning and evening rush hours).

It was agreed that we should inform Pat Wynne to ensure that district nurses are also being represented as part of this consultation.

**AP – Office** to contact Pat Wynne to ensure district nurses are represented in Essential Users Parking Permit discussions.

11.2 – Committee expressed their thanks to Dr Elaine Duncan ahead of her imminent retiral. Elaine has achieved so much as Clinical Director of West Lothian HSCP and her always valuable input will be missed on Committee. We wish her well in her retirement.

Meeting closed.

Date of next meeting - **Monday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2023 virtual via MS Teams**

**2023 Meeting Dates** (last Monday of each month unless highlighted)

Monday 29<sup>th</sup> May (**Novotel**)

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> June (3<sup>rd</sup> Monday)

**NO JULY MEETING**

Monday 28<sup>th</sup> August (**Novotel**)

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> September

Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October

Monday 27<sup>th</sup> November (**Novotel**)

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December (3<sup>rd</sup> Monday)