

**GP SUB-COMMITTEE OF  
NHS Lothian Area Medical Committee**

Monday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2020  
**7.30 pm**  
Virtual meeting via MS Teams

Chair - Dr Drummond Begg

**MINUTES**

**Attending** – Dr Drummond Begg, Dr Jenny English, Dr Iain Morrison, Dr Euan Alexander, Dr Carl Bickler, Dr Elaine Duncan, Dr Andrew Forder, Dr Kerri Greene, Dr Annie Lomas, Dr Neil MacRitchie, Dr Ramon McDermott, Dr Laura Montgomery, Dr Catriona Morton, Dr Rory O’Conaire, Dr Nick Payne, Dr Hamish Reid, Dr Katherine Robertson, Dr Kim Rollinson, Dr Catherine Smith, Dr Elizabeth Strachan, Dr Jane Sweeney, Dr Laura Tweedie, Ms Sandra Allan, Ms Alison McNeillage, Mr David Small, Dr Sian Tucker, Dr Nigel Williams

**Apologies** – Dr Gordon Black, Dr Stuart Blake, Dr Peter Cairns, Ms Tracey Gillies, Dr Elizabeth Murray, Dr Jon Turvill, Dr Ros Wight

Chair welcomed attendees and introduced the guests for the evening;

- Dr Laura Montgomery, newly appointed GP Retainer representative
- Dr Rowan Calloway, GP Locum, Dalkeith Medical Practice (observer)
- Dr Mark Gotink, GP trainee, Penicuik Medical Practice (observer)

**1. Minutes of last meeting 10<sup>th</sup> August 2020, for approval**

The minutes from the previous meeting were approved.

**2. Matters Arising/Actions from last meeting**

2.1 – LMC office shared the “Data from a Lothian Practice” document at both GMS Remobilisation Group and Medical Directors Group. **CLOSED**

2.2 – LMC office raised at Vaccination Transformation Programme meeting whether staff volunteering for Flu campaign Staffbank would be exempt from the standard training requirement. Although this was noted, the decision was that training should still be completed and therefore the current position remains.

**3. Primary Care Data Extraction Service**

The paper issued in advance was taken as read.

#### 4. **Health Inequalities in Scotland – a GP view**

The paper issued in advance was very well received by committee, bringing together a fantastic wealth of evidence, particularly from the Deep End group across Scotland. The responsibility across all strands of the Health Service to reduce health inequalities was noted, and it's hoped that this is a useful resource to help reduce and target health inequalities.

Committee queried whether deprivation status could be considered when making decisions on the future division of Primary Care Improvement Fund, and it was agreed that this should be taken to GMS Remobilisation Group for further consideration.

**ACTION: LMC Office** to arrange for "Health Inequalities in Scotland" paper to be added to a future GMS Remobilisation Meeting.

It was noted that the paper has been shared with RCGP Scotland, Scottish Health & Sports Committee and Scottish Government, and committee were encouraged to share and use the paper as a resource in different settings as needed.

#### 5. **GMS Remobilisation update**

3 key areas of focus were highlighted to committee;

1. A meeting is planned to discuss what a potential local lockdown in Lothian might mean to Primary Care, including increased testing, staff testing and self isolating. Aim is to create an FAQ document.
2. Work is ongoing on the Flu campaign. Lothian will be issuing an individual LES for each HSCP with drafts going to GP Sub soon in advance of issuing to practices. Fee structure will be transfer of residuals (Edinburgh), with the existing fee structure plus a £2 top up for practices doing more than last year being adopted across Mid, East and West Lothian.

Enhanced Services. The proposal is to restart on 1<sup>st</sup> October with no specific delivery target for practices in order to allow increased practice flexibility throughout winter, however the expectation is that practices will work towards 25% delivery of previous full year targets. Further communication to practices will follow. The overall view of committee was that practices will continue to deliver Enhanced Services as long as they have the capacity to do so.

#### 6. **Lothian GP Support and Advice Group**

The latest draft of the NHS Lothian Doctors Support and Advice Group document was issued in advance of the meeting, and the key changes to the document were highlighted.

It was noted that Lothian Doctors Support and Advice Group stands out across LMCs and other Health Boards as having a well organised structure committed to the wellbeing of Lothian doctors. It was also noted that the Practitioners Wellbeing Programme has been approved although details on how this will operate are still being worked through.

Committee approved the latest draft of the document.

## 7. Drug Company Sponsored Virtual Meetings

Recent examples of drug and pharmaceutical companies using clinical/NHS mailboxes to advertise their sponsored training events were shared with committee and their view was sought.

Committee agreed that, in light of evidence that this can impact prescribing decisions, this was not appropriate behaviour and that we should take action to stop these activities.

**ACTION – TG** to take appropriate action to stop the email contact from drug companies advertising their sponsored events.

## 8. Chairs Business

None

## 9. Lothian LMC Medical Directors Business

9.1 Committee were informed that Dr Neil MacRitchie has been appointed as Medical Director of Lothian LMC and will take on the role from October when Dr Iain Morrison moves in the LMC Chair role. Dr MacRitchie is LMC representative for West Lothian and previously served on Grampian LMC.

## 10. Items for Information

### 10.1 GP IT Re provisioning Newsletter

A summary of the Newsletter issued in advance of the meeting was provided.

## 11. AOCB

### 11.1 Dermatology referrals by ANPs

Committee were informed of Dermatology refusing to accept referrals made by Primary Care Advanced Nurse Practitioners. It was recognised that while previously agreed a number of years ago that ANPs wouldn't refer to Dermatology without prior GP review, it wasn't the intention that this would be the long term approach.

Following discussion, Committee agreed that the wider system depends on ANPs being able to refer appropriately within the bounds of their capability and that this should be revisited. The need for a clear pan-Lothian approach to referrals across all specialities, rather than options to opt out, was recognised. With good RefHelp guidelines and good relations, we should be able to make safe and appropriate referrals between specialities.

It was agreed that this would be taken to Lothian Interface Group and also the Referrals Advisors Group for further discussion and agreement on how we move forward in a collegiate way.

**ACTION – LMC Office** to arrange for Dermatology Referrals by ANPs to go to Lothian Interface Group and also Referrals Advisor Group for further discussion and agreement of next steps.

## 11.2 **Chair's last meeting**

Dr Morrison spoke on behalf of Committee and expressed thanks to Dr Begg as he steps down as Chair of LMC and GP Sub-Committee.

Dr Begg's role in building the tripartite structure which set the tone for constructive and collaborative working, along with his constant ability to provide vision and support throughout the last 3 years was recognised.

Dr Begg responded by thanking everyone on Committee, adding that our successes are only due to the work of everyone in the whole group, and that it has been a privilege to work with such committed people.

The meeting closed.

**Date of next meeting – Monday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2020, 7.30pm**