

West Pennine Local Medical Committee

Supporting and representing GPs in Glossop, Oldham, & Tameside

APRIL 2024 UPDATE FROM YOUR LMC



Dr Amir Hannan, Chair



Dr Alan Dow, Secretary



Dr Andrew Vance, Vice Chair



Jane Hill, LMC Liaison Officer/
GP Practice Data Protection Officer

IMPORTANT UPDATE from the BMA's GP England Committee



Dr Katie Bramall Stainer- Chair, GPCE Chair

GPC England (GPCE) met on Thursday May 16th and [voted to move to Phase ONE of Saving General Practice, with the announcement of a ballot for GP contractors / partners across England](#) next month, ahead of prospective action commencing on **1st August 2024**.

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“If Not Now, When?”

In March, 99.2% of nearly 20,000 GP BMA members voted ‘No’ to reject the 2024/25 GP Contract. Almost 75% of the votes cast were from GP contractors / partners, who have told us they are ready to take action and take it soon. The online ballot will outline a menu of actions which will not breach GP contracts. GP contractors / partners are the key decision makers: able to take small steps leading to a big impact to “Protect Practices and Protect Our Patients.”

Following the vote at GPCE to proceed to a ballot ahead of action, we will be explaining what action we are asking GPs to take, why, and when, early next month to coincide with our roadshows (see below). We will also be sharing profession-facing resources and a public-facing campaign very soon. GP contractors/partners will be asked to **vote YES** to send a message to Government.

We are committed to fight for the future of General Practice.

We will reassure our patients that ‘GPs Are On Your Side’. Read the press statement [here](#)

The GP contractor / partner ballot

The ballot *will open on Monday 17 June and close on Monday 29 July ahead of action commencing from Thursday 1 August.*

Please login to **bma.org.uk** to make sure your personal details, job roles, place of work and best contact email are correct. If you experience any issues, please email gpcontract@bma.org.uk for support. *Please look out for an email from Civica which will allow you to vote.*

Your details **MUST** be up to date for your vote to count.

If not now, when?

1. **Take Action to Save General Practice.**
2. **Protect Your Practice, Protect Your Patients.**
3. **Vote Yes in the GP contractor / partner Ballot.**

“Colleagues, it’s time.”

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GPC England Officer Team face-to-face contract roadshows – June and July 2024

In June and July, the GPC England Officer team – Dr Katie Bramall-Stainer, Dr Samira Anane, Dr David Wrigley and Dr Julius Parker will be undertaking over 20 events nationwide, hosted by regional LMC leaders. They will be presenting the GPC England manifesto and sharing the BMA GP Practice Survival Toolkit to Protect your Practice and Protect your Patients. These face-to-face events provide the perfect opportunity to hear about the menu of actions, understand the ballot, and give you an opportunity to ask us any questions. You can also take campaign resources and goodies back to your practice. These events are free and open to:

- All holders of a GP contract
- Every GP and GP Registrar
- Practice Managers and Practice Nurses

The most local event is set to take place on Thursday 6th June at 7pm (registration & refreshments at 6.30pm) at The Village Hotel in Warrington.

To register and see dates for all roadshows, please see the following:

<https://bma.org.uk/gproadshow>

LMC meeting – Tuesday 14th May

The committee met on Tuesday 14th May at 7pm via Teams. West Pennine LMC was delighted to welcome newly appointed LMC representatives; Dr Vikas Gupta is the new Tameside Generalist Representative, Kathryn Ley is the new Practice Manager representative for Glossop, and Claire Hollinshead is the new Practice Manager representative for Oldham.

The Committee discussed the possibility of GPs taking Industrial action in some form, recognising that it is more complex for GPs than, for example, hospital consultants, since GPs are not directly NHS employees. The picture also looks different depending upon whether a GP is a Partner, a salaried GP, or a Locum. It was acknowledged though that the profession is in crisis and with the most recent GP contract being the 3rd imposed contract, a very clear message to the Government is required.

Dr Alan Dow, LMC Secretary and GPCE GM Representative, flagged that GPs are being inappropriately asked to risk assess NOAC (newer anticoagulants) for the National Bowel screening programme. It was agreed that this should be further discussed at a GM Level via the Association of GM LMCs.

Dr Uzma Khalil, Trainee GP Representative, shared an update, flagging that her peers are currently extremely worried as there are no longer enough GP vacancies for newly qualified GPs. She said that in some areas, there are up to 40 applicants for every post, and she added that newly qualified GPs often have colossal debts from their training. This sad situation has partly evolved due to NHS England's ARRS (Additional Roles Reimbursement Scheme), meaning many practices are now operating with clinical roles such as Physician's Associates and Clinical pharmacists, as this is what the funding has dictated.

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Medical Examiner programme delayed to September 2024

The BMA continues to engage with stakeholders on the implementation of the Medical Examiner system in England, which is currently scheduled for 9th September 2024. The Statutory Instruments and timeline of the ME implementation can be found [here](#) with the relevant legislation found [here](#).

CQC workshop – Thursday 20th June 2024

The postponed CQC workshop will now take place on Thursday 20th June from 1pm – 3pm (lunch available from 12.30pm) in the meeting room at Houghton Thornley Medical Centre, Thornley Street, Hyde, SK14 1JY.

Antonia Parker from Lancashire and Cumbria Consortium of LMCs will lead the workshop, which is aimed at GPs, Practice Managers and Practice Nurses, and will guide you through the requirements of the recently introduced Single Assessment Framework. Please do book your place by emailing Jane westpennine.lmc@nhs.net

CQC support

The West Pennine LMC are very aware of how stressful the CQC inspection process can be for Practice staff, both before and after an inspection. We can offer support by coming out to your practice building and reviewing your policies, and protocols with you. If you feel this would be of benefit to your practice team, please do not hesitate to contact us at westpennine.lmc@nhs.net

Retirement

If any GPs are retiring from your practice are due to retire, please do let us know so we can acknowledge their service to General Practice. westpennine.lmc@nhs.net

Recruitment adverts

The West Pennine LMC is happy to share any GP practice recruitment adverts via the LMC's website. Please contact Jane at westpennine.lmc@nhs.net if you wish to advertise a position at your practice.

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Data Protection Office Update

Data Security & Protection Toolkit annual return

[Log In \(dsptoolkit.nhs.uk\)](https://dsptoolkit.nhs.uk)

Please be aware that the deadline for submitting practice's mandatory annual toolkit return is 30th June 2024. If you require any support with this work, please do not hesitate to contact me:

Jane.hilldpo@nhs.net or Mobile: 07951 530 417

For practices in Tameside:

As Tameside ICFT provides the IT support for the practices in Tameside, Dan Greenwood - TICFT Information Governance Lead is offering a drop-in session for Practices to ask any questions on Monday 10th June at 2.30pm-3.30pm via Teams: [Click here to join the meeting](#)
Meeting ID: 362 946 743 925
Passcode: wjry4K

Accelerated Access to GP-held patient records – update.

Following engagement with the ICO and NHSE, the BMA maintains the position outlined by the Information Commissioner. While the direction to provide prospective record access to patients is legal, mitigations outlined by practices in DPIAs submitted to the ICO should also be implemented to ensure that processing is compliant with the requirement of the Data Protection Act.

Where practices are facing pressure from ICBs to move ahead with prospective automatic access and have produced a DPIA, they should cite the ICOs response and continue in line with their DPIA.

Read more [here](#)

UK Caldicott Guardian Council training

The UK Caldicott Guardian Council have several training events for Caldicott Guardians in 2024. Please see the following link for further information:

[Events — UKCGC](#)

Data Protection training

In 2024, I continue to deliver Data Protection training sessions for GP practice teams. If you think your team would benefit from a short F2F session, I am very happy to come out to your practice to support you with this. Jane.hilldpo@nhs.net