

WORCESTERSHIRE LMC

NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2006 EDITION

WORCESTERSHIRE PCT

As we mentioned in our last newsletter the LMC is very keen to engage in discussion with the PCT around our document 'Working with the new PCT' which is available on our website. To this end the officers of the LMC have a meeting shortly with the Chairman and the Chief Executive of the new PCT and on the same evening Paul Bates will be attending our LMC meeting. We very much hope that a much more effective working relationship will develop between the LMC and the new PCT.

GPs in the area of the old South Worcestershire PCT will be aware that the PCT had postponed all appraisals for six months. The LMC had expressed concern about this and has written again to the PCT following a letter from the head of Primary Care and Medical Care Contract to the PCTS which is obviously expressing concern at the number of PCTs seeking funding for appraisal.

Our document outlines a whole list of important areas where the PCT needs to engage and support developments in primary care. The LMC will try and give a county wide focus to these developments.

PRACTICE BASED COMMISSIONING MEETING

The LMC would like to remind everybody of our meeting on the 23rd November at the Pear Tree Inn in Smite. Starting with a buffet at 7.30 pm and followed by a talk from Dr Neil Parkes, Chairman of Lincoln LMC and Executive Director of an enthusiastic PBC unit. We think this will be a really interesting evening and hope that as many of you as possible will be able to attend and think about PBC. In the long run indications are that PBC is the future and the LMC strongly feels that large groupings of GPs across the county are needed to cope with taking this forward. We also feel that we need to be considering how these groupings will be put together in relation to our Acute Trust. We hope this meeting will be a catalyst to taking some of these issues forward. Please let us know if you plan to attend.

GP TRAINERS CPD GRANT

As you are aware the Review Body awarded £750 per GP Trainer for CPD. Not everybody has applied! Forms to obtain this money are available from Dr Vic Schrieber.

WMRLMC GMS2 IMPLEMENTATION TOOL

I am sure by now many of you will be aware that the West Midlands Regional LMC website has a very effective database of documents relating to the GP contract. Our secretary Grant Ingrams constantly updates this and the latest version is online. However, a better version is available on disk which has a search engine which is really effective. If any practices wish to have a copy please can they ask the LMC and we will send out an updated version.

BROMSGROVE REPRESENTATIVE

A vacancy exists for a representative from the Bromsgrove constituency. The LMC is very keen to have full membership of the committee and good representation from across the county. We hope that a Bromsgrove doctor will come forward and join the committee. If anybody is interested please will they contact the secretary.

LIMITED COMPANY STATUS

As you are aware the LMC has been under discussion with BMA Law about transferring the activities of the LMC to a limited company. Progress has now been made and we hope this will happen in the next two to three months. Effectively the Local Medical Committee will retain statutory responsibility and collect the levy. All the working of the LMC will be transferred to Worcestershire LMC Limited who will receive a grant to do this work from the LMC. The only difference you will notice is that the stationery, website and newsletter will all come from Worcestershire LMC Ltd. We hope to provide exactly the same if not better service but this mechanism greatly saves doctors on the committee from litigation. It will also reduce the cost of our indemnity insurance. We will keep you informed of developments.

WORCESTERSHIRE OUT OF HOURS SERVICE

Out of Hours is a running minute on the LMC meeting and there are continuing anxieties about the service that is being provided. The LMC is aware that financial pressures on the PCT continue to exist and it is of concern that they seem to be looking at cost savings at Out of Hours. Paul Bates recently wrote to the LMC advising that they currently spend £7.50 per head of population on Out of Hours which compared to a national figure of £10 per head. He goes on to say that 'Given the overall funding that Worcestershire receives for health compared to the national average it is important that our Out of Hours costs reflect this position'. The committee is worried that moves will be made to put our Out of Hours Service to tender. Reports from elsewhere are not always favourable about this. Specifically the LMC has grave concerns about the steadily reducing number of local doctors working in the Out of Hours Service. It seems there is nothing to support or encourage this. We also expressed concern that there appears to be an inadequate service provision being planned

for the Christmas period. Out of Hours will become increasingly an area of interest to Worcestershire GPs when PBC takes off. The steady rise in emergency admissions is a major source of worry to the PCTs. The fact that GP practices are actually closed for more hours than they are open indicates that a vast majority of emergency admissions go via other agencies. Obviously the quality of Out of Hours and emergency care is very relevant to this.

Whilst we are on the subject of emergency care, GP's may be interested to see the document entitled 'Direction for travel for urgent care: a discussion document' produced by the DOH and available on their website. (Gateway Reference 7071). This is a very interesting document and could suggest very major changes to emergency care for patients which will have a real impact on the nature of General Practice. We would very much encourage GPs to look at this document and respond either directly to this to the DOH or to the LMC. The closing date for comments is the 5th January 2007.

COMPLETION OF HEALTH REFERENCE FORMS FOR PROSPECTIVE RESIDENTS TO THE GENERAL DENTAL COUNCIL

The GDC have produced a requirement that states that all prospective residents must have a Health Reference Form completed by their GP. At least one Worcestershire practice has already had two of these and has real concern about completing them. When this was conveyed back to the dental practice they had a fairly unpleasant response from the dentist concerned. Interestingly the BMA sent an email to the LMC stating that it has a number of concerns regarding this guidance and that the BMA met with the GDC to highlight these concerns.

The GDC will be reviewing this process. We have written to Worcestershire LDC and advised that these forms are not part of a GPs terms and conditions of service. If you choose to do the work charge the correct fee for the time spent. Otherwise you could suggest an occupational health provider is sought.

NOTIONAL RENT REVIEWS

Just a reminder that when your notional rent review comes up for reassessment by the District Valuer he may consider using an outside agency to check that this figure is correct and hopefully increase the next three years notional rent. Quite a few practices in Worcestershire currently use Bill Owen at Bruton Knowles Ltd. If you are interested in their services you can contact them as follows:

Mr Bill Owen, Bruton Knowles Ltd, Bisley House, Green Farm Business Park, Bristol Road, Gloucester, GL2 4LY
Telephone: 01452 880148; Mobile: 07786 337376;
email: Bill.Owen@brutonknowles.co.uk.

WORCESTERSHIRE LMC

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MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

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Dr J Rankin

Dr R Kinsman

MALVERN: Dr D Radley
Dr G Wilson

WORCESTER: Dr M Keeble

Dr R Ingles

Dr J O'Driscoll

Non-Principals: Dr J Pole
Dr N Burger

Practice Manager Group Representatives:

David Jago, Chairman South Worcs PM

Out of Hours: Dr R Kelsey

Wendy Goodchild, Chairperson R&B PM

Dispensing: Dr D Brownridge

Don Beckett, Chairman Wyre Forest PM

Registrars Rep: Dr D Hughes
Dr L Croton

Local GPC Representative: Dr Grant Ingrams, gji@nhs.net

**THIS NEWLETTER IS PRODUCED FROM THE LMC OFFICE AT
ST STEPHENS SURGERY**

The next LMC meeting will be 9 November 2006