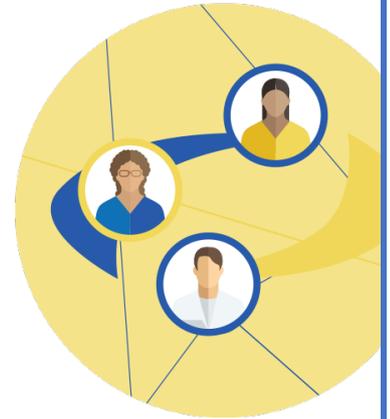


## Beds & Herts LMC Ltd: LMC Conference report Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2020



### **2020 Conference of England LMCs – report from Beds & Herts LMC**

The conference opened with a motion commending GPs and practices for their response to the pandemic and insisting that this be recognised in future negotiations. Herts representatives **Vishal Kapil** and **Rami Eliad** both spoke to this motion, and referred to the results of the Capacity Survey which some of you had completed last month.

Beds representatives **Chris Harris** and **Peter Gledhill** also referred to the results of this survey in their speeches in favour of a motion about the transfer of work from secondary to primary care, calling on more contractual and financial sanctions to stop this from happening. It was clear from the huge number of LMCs who had submitted motions on this theme and who spoke in support of the motion that this is an England-wide problem and the motion gives some direction to GPC about what GPs expect them to push for in their negotiations with NHS England.

**Peter Gledhill** proposed a motion from Bedfordshire about face to face appointments, arguing that it should always be the GP's decision about whether or not a face to face appointment is needed and deploring NHS England's lack of support for practices who implemented safe and efficient consultation systems. **Violaine Carpenter** from Hertfordshire spoke in favour of a related motion about remote consultations, demanding more support for this way of working including GP training, ability to control demand, and better IT support.

**Elfrieda Power**, locum GP representative from Hertfordshire, spoke in favour of a motion about the impact the pandemic has had on locum GPs. Using the results of a survey that the Herts LMC Locum reps had carried out a few months ago, she supported the call for more support for and inclusion of locum GPs. The motion included a call for NHS England to prioritise locum GPs for work over GPs returning from retirement, and this specific point was hotly debated with **Peter Gledhill** arguing that this could be discriminatory and restrict practices' freedom to employ the best person for the job. The motion was carried, although this particular part was carried by the smallest margin of the conference.

Herts representative **Aneela Sattar** proposed a motion calling for more flexibility in the use of ARRS funding, including practices being able to use this for GPs, nurses and non-clinical support staff. The motion was carried so will now form part of GPC's negotiations on the future of the PCN DES. A further motion was carried which called for an increase in the £1.50. More controversially, a motion proposed by Devon LMC called for a ballot of the whole profession before any further changes are made to

the PCN DES for 2021/22. This motion was passed and so GPC will now be tasked with making this happen.

Conference motions had been written before the announcement that 50-64 year olds could receive a flu vaccination from 1<sup>st</sup> December. Herts LMC had submitted an emergency motion about this which was debated under a motion about the flu vaccination programme in general. **Violaine Carpenter** spoke, demanding an end to announcements by media and deploring the lack of respect this showed to those who are delivering the service. Although these Government announcements by media are not the fault of GPC, Farah Jameel from the GPC apologised to the profession in recognition of the impact this had on practices.

The final motion of the day was an emergency motion about the covid vaccination programme which demanded that it be made clear that any fault in delivery will lie with the government, and not with GPs. It also demanded that the requirements for 8-8, 7/7 working and delivery only from a PCN site be removed, and that there is more funding and greater flexibility. The motion also called for a vote of no confidence in the GPC Executive over its negotiations on and handling of this enhanced service. **Chris Harris** from Bedfordshire and **Rami Eliad** from Hertfordshire both spoke passionately about these issues. Although the majority of the motion was passed, the vote of no confidence was lost with almost two thirds of the conference voting against it.

A full list of all the motions and whether they were carried or rejected will be available on the BMA website in due course.

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