

## Beds & Herts LMC Ltd: Update for Practices, Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2023



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1. GPC England's Report of the GP contract meeting with Minister O'Brien MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State

Further [to GPC England's rejection of the 2023/24 contract change proposals](#) at its meeting on the 02<sup>nd</sup> February, the GPC met with Neil O'Brien MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, to discuss the GP contract deadlock. The following is their update following that meeting:

*"Mr O'Brien thanked us for the constructive approach to contract discussions and commented on how hard GPs are working and sought to focus on unnecessary bureaucracy and what changes could be made to QOF (Quality and Outcomes Framework). We raised the issue of the unsustainable pressures practices are under and the lack of investment, with the system working beyond capacity and the fact that every GP lost results in, on average, over 2,200 patients needing to be distributed to other already overburdened GPs. We stressed that stability is urgently needed for the next 12 months but the profession does not feel supported by Government at the present time, and that there is the perception that secondary care gets all the additional resource and focus and the huge negative impact this is having on GP practice workload.*

*Minister O'Brien confirmed that, within the forthcoming General Practice/Primary Care Recovery Plan, the primary secondary care interface is receiving particular attention, and acknowledged that there is more to do on GP appointments in terms of getting accurate data as the belief is GPs are actually doing more than national statistics currently show. Government/DHSC is also keen to tell a positive story regarding primary care. The Minister also reported willingness to change QOF, ARRS (additional roles reimbursement scheme), IIF (Investment and Impact Fund) where possible, bringing in changes faster and that DHSC welcomes ideas on this.*

*We also raised the issue of QOF and the impact of the end of year focus on unnecessary "box ticking" and stressed that less prescriptive quality improvement style approaches would be better, as this would ensure an improved experience for patients with GPs able to focus on the right aspects of their care.*

*We also stressed that the current intended core practice contract funding uplift is insufficient to help cover the cost of practice expenses and we strongly urged the Government to identify additional financial support for 2023/24 to ensure practices are not forced to reduce their workforce and thus patient access, to cut costs or, even more worryingly, cease operating altogether.*

*As we stated previously, if the Government and NHS England refuses to negotiate an improved offer, and a contract is imposed on practices, we would be forced to consider all options, including the potential for industrial or collective action.”*

## **2. 2023/24 GP contract update webinars**

The GPC are organising five webinars to ensure that every GP has an opportunity to hear about this year’s contract changes, ask questions, and share their feedback, at no cost. The GPCE officers will deliver the same presentation at each webinar, meaning that attendees need only attend the event most convenient to them.

These webinars will replace the roadshow events familiar to many from pre-pandemic times. The unusual lead up and consequent delay to this year’s negotiations has rendered that approach impractical. It will also free up more time for in-person engagement with the officers regarding the future shape of the contract.

We encourage as many colleagues to attend these events as possible, as the BMA will use these as an opportunity to explain the next step options and hear member feedback.

Further details and registration will be available via the [BMA’s Events page](#) in due course and will include the registration links in the next bulletin/update. The planned dates and times are:

- Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> March, 19.00 – 20.30
- Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 12.30 – 14.00
- Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> March, 19.00 – 20.30
- Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> March, 12.30 – 14.00
- Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> March, 19.00 – 20.30

The presentation will be delivered first, with questions answered afterwards, so that those who cannot stay for the full 90 minutes will still have the key information.

## **3. Working with Torture Survivors - an e-learning course for healthcare professionals**

Freedom from Torture, a charity providing therapeutic care to survivors of torture across the UK, have designed a course for doctors and healthcare professionals providing care for refugees and asylum seekers. The course was established in response to requests for training from GPs who are treating increased numbers of asylum seekers. A significant proportion of these patients will have experienced traumatic events, including torture, and have resulting complex health needs. Doctors may feel that they lack the specialist knowledge required to support this group.

Backed with funding from BMA Giving, the BMA’s charitable arm, the 10-module course educates on the physical and psychological impact of torture, the unique treatment needs of survivors of sexual torture and how to document evidence of torture in medical records.

GPs and other healthcare professionals can access the course online and for free via the Freedom from Torture [website](#).

## **4. Claiming for Personal Independence Payment (PIP)**

If you have a conversation with an individual about PIP, please signpost them to the PIP information pages at [GOV.UK/PIP](#) so they can consider if they may be eligible prior to claiming. The PIP pages include easy-read guides and links to YouTube videos about eligibility, evidence requirements and the

claims process. These will help individuals to understand what information they need to provide to support their claim and consider whether PIP is the right benefit for them.

## 5. Wellbeing

As we continue to face overwhelming pressures in general practice, we encourage practices to focus on their own team's wellbeing.

Your LMC offers a confidential pastoral service for all GPs. Please call the office on 01438 880010 to find out more.

A range of wellbeing and support services are available to doctors, from the GPC's 24/7 confidential [counselling and peer support services](#) to networking groups and wellbeing hubs with peers, as well as the [NHS practitioner health service](#) and non-medical support services such as [Samaritans](#).

The organisation [Doctors in Distress](#) also provides mental health support for health workers in the UK, providing confidential peer support group sessions.

See the BMA [poster with 10 tips to help maintain and support the wellbeing](#) of you and your colleagues.

**News** - For the latest news, information and weekly updates for practices, please visit the [Hot Topics](#) section of our website.

**BHLMC Job Board** - Advertise your practice vacancies or search for jobs on our [Job Board](#). If you are interested in posting an advert please contact [lmadmin@bhlmc.co.uk](mailto:lmadmin@bhlmc.co.uk) for more information.

**Locums** - If you are a Locum and would like to receive LMC updates, please register via the [online form](#) to be added to our database and mailing list.

**Workforce Wellbeing & Support** - [Visit our webpage](#).

### Contact Us:

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