

9 February 2023

To All General Practitioners and Practice Managers, Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland

Dear Colleagues

**Re: LLR LMC Development session 11 January 2023  
LLR LMC Board meeting 08 February 2023  
LLR LMC Annual General Meeting 08 February 2023**

Belated Happy New Year and welcome to my first newsletter of 2023. In January we did not have a normal board meeting but a development session.

- 1) [Development session](#)

LLRLMC Board Meeting

- 2) [Palliative Care Virtual Ward](#)
- 3) [Can We Fix It?](#)
- 4) [GP Contract Update](#)
- 5) [Junior Doctor Industrial Action](#)

LLRLMC Annual General Meeting

- 6) [What is it you plan to do with your one wild and precious life?](#)

As usual, I am happy to receive any comments or questions about anything in this letter. Also please give feedback about what else you would like me to include or any other suggestions to improve it.

### **Development Session**

The session was mainly aimed at team building and how we can work effectively as a board. As part of this we discussed the membership of the Board. We agreed that to improve succession planning, representation, and our overall knowledge that in future we will also include the following:

- GP registrar (observer)
- Sessional GP(s) (voting member)
- Practice manager (observer)
- Newly qualified GP/First 5 (Voting member)

We have not agreed to the practicalities of number of posts, whether elected or appointed yet. We will need to change the LMC constitution, and we will circulate a draft for comment by all constituents once this is ready. Please let me know if you have any views about this, or suggestions.

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## **ADVISE SUPPORT REPRESENT**

Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Local Medical Committee

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## **Palliative Care Virtual Ward**

The Board was given a presentation by Dr Cassey Rowe-Haynes regarding the proposed Palliative Care Virtual Ward which would allow secondary care level service to be delivered in a patient's home. The proposal is to initially have 10 patients on this scheme at a time across LLR.

GPs are being asked to help on rare occasions regarding prescribing. LOROS will be introducing electronic prescribing, but this is likely to take up to 6 months. In the interim they will be issuing paper prescriptions. Wherever possible these will be provided directly to the patient, or carers will be asked to collect, or the script will be taken by Taxi to a chemist. However, there may be rare occasions where the script cannot be got to the patient or their pharmacy, and on these few occasions the patient's GP may be approached to issue an electronic script. We have reminded LOROS that virtual wards are secondary care services and therefore there is no responsibility for GPs to prescribe, but we have agreed that we would ask GPs whether they could support by providing prescribing prescriptions with the caveats that it is, indeed, a rare request and that electronic prescriptions will be implemented within 6 months.

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## **Can We Fix It?**

This is our now standing item to identify and solve bugbears for practices. Referring to the Priority Matrix (in particular for those present at our AGM last night), these are the 'Important' but 'Non urgent' items that are often repeatedly put to the bottom of the to do list due to constant 'firefighting.' We promised in December to sort out issues with midwife-initiated blood tests. Progress has been slow due to the Christmas period. We have had some initial discussions and have a further meeting at the beginning of March at which we expect a long-term permanent solution to be agreed.

We have agreed to a further item. GPs have told us that they get frustrated that Tasks from Leicestershire Partnership Trust community nurses etc just say "look in the record" or similar. This means that until the record is opened the GP does not know what the Task is about, whether it is urgent or routine, or is just for information and requires no action. We will contact LPT to agree a change to this.

We also had a discussion regarding the amount of work practices undertake following up referrals on behalf of patients. We discussed how different Board members tackle this, and reached a consensus to recommend the following approach.

When a referral is made to UHL we recommend the practice sends a template SMS to the patient to include:

- Confirmation that the referral has been sent.
- The UHL patient telephone number for appointment queries: **0300 303 1563** (email [bookingcentre@uhl-tr.nhs.uk](mailto:bookingcentre@uhl-tr.nhs.uk)).
- The expected waiting time (see [University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust – My Planned Care NHS](#))
- That the patient should only contact the practice if there is a significant change in their condition.

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## **GP Contract Update**

I updated the LMC following the meeting of the General Practitioners Committee of the BMA on 2 February 2023. The view of the GPC was that the offer made via NHS England regarding the contract for 2023 to 2024 was at best derogatory. The members voted without any dissent to reject it.

If the government and NHS England want to have a general practice which can recruit and retain GPs, and develop to provide effective and safe healthcare they will need to prove this in any proposed contract changes. The offer suggests that the government either does not recognise the current crisis in general practice or does not care.

The GPC will be considering what actions could be taken if an improved offer is not made. What action would your practice be willing to take?

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## **Junior Doctor Industrial Action.**

The LMC discussed this issue. Unless the terms and conditions of our trainees is improved we are unlikely to be able to recruit and retain enough to provide an ongoing general practice service. If our junior colleagues vote for industrial action we are asking practices to consider how they could support their foundation year doctors and registrars.

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## **What is it you plan to do with your one wild and precious life?**

We held our AGM last night. I opened the meeting and commended our [annual report](#).

Our theme was the quote taken from the poem the [Summer Day](#) by the American poet Mary Oliver:

Tell me, what is it you plan to do  
With your one wild and precious life?

We had a very thought-provoking talk from Dr Rachel Morris about how to control your stress and work levels. She has developed a 'shapes' toolkit and produces an ongoing series of podcasts called '[You are not a frog](#).' If you were not present last night I recommend listening to these.

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With my ongoing thanks for everything you do for your patients, and your support of the LMC.

Yours faithfully



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