

CLMC Bulletin 489 – 23/11/21

New Chair of GPC England

We were delighted to learn that Dr Farah Jameel was elected as the new Chair of GPC England. We express our deepest gratitude and thanks to Dr Richard Vautrey for all that he has done for general practice in his many years in general practice leadership. Thank you Richard, we owe you so much. As we look forward to a new era we offer our full support to Farah. We are sure she will be outstanding in this role and look forward to many years working alongside her and the team at the GPC and BMA.

Read the [press statement](#), and [General Practice \(@BMA_GP\) / Twitter](#)

Below are a few words from Dr Farah Jameel, your new GPC England Chair:

I am delighted and honoured to have been elected to represent GPs as the new GPC England chair at a time of enormous challenge to the profession and I would like to thank the former chair, Dr Richard Vautrey for his dedication and commitment to this committee and all that he has achieved over the years for the profession. I would also like to take the opportunity to thank the rest of the Executive Team, who I have had the pleasure of working with over the past 4 years. Working through the pandemic as a team presented enormous challenges and I want to acknowledge their tireless efforts on behalf of the profession.

I am proud to represent grass-root colleagues, and in particular, to make history as the first woman to chair GPC England.

I don't underestimate the difficulties that lay ahead but we must recognise this as an opportunity to reset our relationship with Government and begin to rebuild general practice.

I want a fresh start for general practice and intend to use the next three years to work closely with general practice leaders, grassroots GPs, Local Medical Committees (LMCs) alongside other stakeholders. I intend to hear a range of diverse views and be innovative in navigating the stormy waters ahead. Together, we will seek to design and deliver a stable and sustainable general practice, fit to serve generations of patients to come.

I acknowledge some of the biggest issues the profession is currently facing - workload pressures, workforce shortages and funding depletion, and I will work with you to address these crucial issues. I also know that the experiences for patients must improve, and how important it is to you, to be supported to provide the high quality, safe and equitable care you want to continue providing.

I promise to bring hope back into the profession.

And a few words from Farah following the GPC England meeting - 18 November 2021:

I had the honour to attend my first GPC England meeting as Chair yesterday, after being elected into post that morning. In addition to thanking the former Chair, Dr Richard Vautrey, and team above, I would also like to thank Dr Chandra Kanneganti, who contested this election with me. I tweeted a picture of us just prior to the election to mark the day, when two overseas trained doctors contested the election for Chair of GPCE. This was a huge moment for me for many reasons and I want to thank him for his part in making history. Dr David Wrigley, Deputy Chair of Council, opened the meeting and chaired up until the election results were announced and also attended the remainder of the meeting. Dr Zoe Greaves, who has been elected the new speaker of the Committee, taking over from Dr Fay Wilson who had been the speaker for nearly 4 years, very ably fulfilled that role for the first time.

The main item of discussion following the election was the outcome of the [indicative ballot](#), which closed earlier this week. The ballot asked what actions practices might be willing to take in response to the lack of support from Government and NHS England for general practice in the face of unprecedented pressures, which risk the quality and safety of care GPs are able to offer patients. These included withdrawing from the PCN DES, disrupting appointment data, refusing to provide COVID vaccination certification and refusing to declare earnings.

Following a thorough and engaging debate amongst committee members, GPCE is now considering the results in detail before deciding on next steps, which will be communicated to members in due course. There have been some questions on social media about why we have not released these results. I have explained our position above, in addition, I am day 1 in post, and commit to being completely open and transparent with you in as timely a way as possible. I promise to keep you updated, as I know that this is important to you.

GPCE also heard updates from:

- the Sessional GPs Committee Chair, Dr Ben Molyneux
- the GP Trainees Committee Chair, Dr Euan Strachan-Orr
- the GPC Gender Champion, Dr Rachel Ali
- the Chair of the LMC England Conference, Dr Shaba Nabi, about the Agenda for the Conference to be held next week 25-26 November.

At the end of the meeting, the Committee was divided into breakout groups to discuss the Health Select Committee [inquiry into the future of general practice](#), where many useful points and suggestions were raised. The notes from these discussions will be collated and will form the initial basis of the BMA/GPCE response to the inquiry.

There were a number of strong debates throughout the day and given that this was my maiden meeting in the hot seat, I was so impressed with the tenor, tone and ethos. There were some slight IT hiccups but we got through it and kudos to Zoe and David for managing to chair through these hiccups. Well done to the committee for being so brilliant and my final thanks is to the staff for running the day so smoothly.

GP earnings declaration

With thanks to Richard and Chaand Nagpaul (Chair of council), who have continued to raise with the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) the serious concerns about earnings declarations for GPs. DHSC have now confirmed that they will delay both the submission and publication of earnings declarations until at least next Spring.

With GPs facing some of the most intense pressures many have ever experienced, GPC have been clear that this policy was likely to be counter-productive. Crucially, these changes could have caused disruption over the winter period – distracting from the immediate priorities facing practices and their patients.

We are pleased that the Secretary of State is delaying these plans, providing some breathing space for hard-working GPs. GPC will continue to lobby on this matter. Read the GPC [guidance on GP earnings](#).

COVID-19 vaccinations - Booster vaccination for over 40s and Second doses for 16 and 17-year olds

The [Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation \(JCVI\)](#) has advised that, all adults aged 40 to 49 years (cohort 10) should also be offered an mRNA COVID-19 Vaccine booster, 6 months after their second dose, irrespective of the vaccines given for the first and second doses.

The [JCVI has also advised](#) that all 16 to 17 year olds who are not in an at-risk group should be offered a second dose of the Pfizer vaccine. The second vaccine dose should be given 12 weeks or more following the first vaccine dose.

Note that for both of these group, it is on an opt-in bases, and provision to these groups won't be required if PCN groups want to just continue with existing provision.

Read the [guidance from NHSE/I on COVID-19 vaccination deployment for both groups](#).

COVID-19 vaccination for the housebound

NHSE/I has increased the supplementary fee detailed in the [phase 3 general practice enhanced service specification](#) to £20 per visit (increased from the current £10 supplementary fee) to a housebound patient for each vaccination dose given to a housebound patient, by PCN-led and CP-led LVS sites. This supplement is on top of the £12.58 Item of Service fee. This increased supplement will apply for COVID-19 vaccinations (booster and third primary dose only) administered to housebound people from 16 September 2021 until 5 December 2021.

Vaccination Data Resolution Service (VDRS)

The Vaccination Data Resolution Service (VDRS) has been established to resolve missing or incorrect vaccination records for people who are registered with a GP practice in England and who were vaccinated in England, Scotland or Wales. The primary aim of the VDRS is to ensure progression of the COVID-19 vaccination programme and ensure people's records are correct and allow recommended doses of the vaccination to be booked and received, including booster doses.

As well as citizens being able to access the service via 119, a system has been established whereby sites can access the VDRS to support vaccination record entry and queries. This service should also be used by sites if a person presents for vaccination and has missing vaccination records relating to vaccine administered at sites elsewhere in England and requires sites to complete a form for the VDRS team to process.

For full information on how to access this service, please visit the VDRS page within the [COVID vaccinations tech and data workspace](#) on FutureNHS. Register [here for a FuturesNHS account](#).

Health Select Committee inquiry into the future of general practice

The Parliamentary Health and Social Care Committee (HSCC) chaired by former Health Secretary, Jeremy Hunt MP, has launched a timely [inquiry into the future of general practice](#). The inquiry presents a key opportunity for the BMA to push our GP campaign asks, as well as to raise wider concerns and recommendations. The BMA will submit a formal response, but members of the public can also [submit their comments](#) directly to the inquiry by 14 December.

CLMC will also submit a response and we ask that members provide any feedback to us, to Jackie.jameson@nhs.net, no later than Wednesday 8 December so we can collate and ensure we reflect your views. Of course, you can also submit your individual response, the more the voices the louder and clearer the message!

Tees Valley Primary Care Training Hub - Frailty Webinar, 2nd December, 2pm

The Primary Care Training Hub have been working alongside our stakeholders and the NENC Ageing Well Network to understand the requirements within Primary Care around the Frailty & EHCH framework. Following on from this, we have commissioned some short webinars for you and your teams delivered by the NENC Ageing Well Network. Please see this [document for further information](#).

Tees Valley Primary Care Training Hub – Webinar Understanding Trauma in Healthcare - Thursday 2nd December - Primary Care

Colleagues in the southeast are running a session for Primary Care entitled Understanding Trauma in Healthcare on the 2nd of December and they have some spaces left.

This 90-minute leadership espresso has been designed for our Primary Care leaders in the NHS who would like to understand what trauma looks like through the lens of inclusion and equality and how it can impact your staff and yourself. The session will focus on:

- An understanding of what trauma is, how it impacts people at an individual level and the systems or teams they work within.
- Recognising when staff may be traumatised and helping staff to access the help and support they need
- Understanding and using the 5-pillar framework as a tool to benefit the workforce and their wellbeing
- Understanding trauma through the lens of inclusion and equality

Please use the link below to book your space.

<https://se.leadershipacademy.nhs.uk/event/understanding-trauma-in-healthcare-what-leaders-need-to-know-about-how-to-support-their-staff-and-themselves-espresso-2/>

Tees Valley Primary Care Training Hub - Invitation to Primary Care placement webinar Tuesday 7th December 2021

The Enabling Effective Learning Environment team (EELE) are hosting [a webinar on Promoting Primary Care Placements](#) on Tuesday 7th December from 1 -2:30pm via MS Teams. You can find out more about the supporting students, enhancing teams and developing future workforce.

The EELE team will be discussing their role in supporting primary care placement providers. They will also be joined by speakers who will share their experience of student placements.

Please email ghnt.ele.nenc@nhs.net to register your interest and receive the MS Teams link. If you are unable to attend but would like to access the recording after the event, please register to secure your recording access.

Child and young adult wellbeing website for patients (includes information for pregnant ladies)

The Northern Child Health and Wellbeing Network provided this [link to a potentially useful website](#) for practices to direct patients - either directly, or as an embedded link within your own practice website. The website covers a vast array of topics taking new parents through from concerns they may have with regard to their pregnancy through to managing common and minor ailments and supporting children with anxieties, mental health etc. It is very much a self-help website, providing important advice and answering frequent questions/concerns, and may reduce some of the queries into practices from parents thus helping with workload.

Serious Shortage Protocol - atorvastatin 20mg chewable tablets

Serious Shortage Protocol (SSP) for atorvastatin (Lipitor®) 20mg chewable tablets came into effect yesterday, 18 November in England and Wales. The SSP is currently scheduled to end on 12 January 2022. Read more on the NHS Business Services Authority's SSP [website](#).

BMA Law - Partnership Disputes Webinar, Tuesday 30 November, 1 – 2pm

As always, CLMC does not recommend any particular provider but we wanted to share the details of this free webinar as it may prove useful for some.

BMA Law's expert partnership lawyer Sarah Carr will explain why you need to have a robust and up to date Partnership Agreement, and highlight the pitfalls of and solutions to some common GP partnership problems.

There will be a 15-minute Q&A at the end.

You can [register to attend here](#). If you are unable to attend and wish to receive a recording of the event, please do register to ensure you have access.

NHS Property Services – Direct Payments webinar, 10 December, 11am

The [webinar](#) is hosted by NHSPS in partnership with the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC), NHS England and Improvement (NHSE&I) and Community Health Partnerships (CHP) to learn more about Direct Payments and how it can streamline funding flows.

GPs are reimbursed by Commissioners for some of their premises costs (rent, rates, water and clinical waste) under the Premises Cost Directions, and a GP should then pass these funds onto their landlord (NHSPS and CHP in this instance).

Under Direct Payments, these funds would pass directly across to NHSPS and CHP as landlord from the Commissioner, ensuring the funds do not leave the NHS (or DHSC group). This reduces administration for GPs through a reduction in transactions between commissioners, GPs and DHSC property companies and better clarity of charges for Commissioners.

[Register here](#)

GPC GP Bulletin

Read the GP bulletin [here](#).

[BMA COVID-19 guidance](#)

Read the BMA [COVID-19 toolkit for GPs and practices](#), which provides comprehensive guidance for practices to manage contractual issues and service provision during the coronavirus pandemic. You can access all the BMA guidance on COVID-19, including ethical guidance, [here](#). There is also guidance on the following topics:

- [Model terms of engagement for a GP providing temporary COVID-19 services](#)
- [Terms and conditions for sessional GPs](#)
- [Risk assessments](#)

Mental health and wellbeing – looking after you and your practice team

GP appraisal leads and GP tutors offer of telephone support conversations remain for any GP who feels they would like to talk through any aspect of their professional/personal life that has been affected by Covid. To organise a telephone support conversation, either with the appraisal lead or with a GP tutor, please contact the appraisal team, or email di.jelley@nhs.net

Crisis Coaching & Mentoring: [Coaching and mentoring sessions are available now](#) for all NHS and Health and Social Care leaders. Delivered by The Centre for Army Leadership and Meyler Campbell Coaching, these sessions are designed to support with the huge pressure on the ability of the NHS to deliver safe, high-quality care, sharpen focus on meeting the core needs of staff, ensuring wellbeing and sustained motivation to deal with this rapidly changing situation. The intervention will give leaders an understanding of crisis leadership that goes beyond what is necessary and focused on engagement and motivation through Covid19. Further information and how to register [see link here](#)

CLMC continue to offer [wellbeing services via Validium](#) for **ALL working in general practice within Tees** (including locums). We understand that a number of staff have accessed this confidential service and it has been well received.

The BMA's [report on the mental health and wellbeing of the medical workforce](#) which sets out ten recommendations to be addressed to protect staff during the pandemic and in the future. The BMA is here for you and offers supportive [wellbeing services](#) which include face-to-face counselling. You can access one-off support or, after triage, a structured course of up to six face-to-face counselling sessions. Call 0330 123 1245 today or [visit the website](#) for more information.

For all other support, speak to a BMA adviser on [0300 123 1233](tel:03001231233) or email support@bma.org.uk

[Read more about doctors' wellbeing during the pandemic](#) and on Twitter [@TheBMA](#)

There is also a wealth of [NHSE provided support](#) available to you and your team including a wellbeing support helpline, a 24/7 text alternative, [peer to peer, team and personal resilience support](#), free mindfulness apps and the [#LookingAfterYouToo coaching offer](#).

NHSEI have recently developed a new [communications toolkit](#) and resources to help promote their offers to the workforce. The toolkit has an overview of each offer, including bulletin, email and social media copy, and links to some case studies and posters. You can also follow this link [Primary Care Coaching – Link to Assets](#) to a range of resources, including social media assets, a video, PDF case studies and posters, website and email banners.