

# SHEFFIELD LOCAL MEDICAL COMMITTEE

# NEWSLETTER

## JANUARY 2011

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#### **WHITE PAPER UPDATES**

##### GPs & The White Paper in Sheffield: How to Make it Work

Further to the LMC Newsflash distributed on 22 December 2010, the LMC Executive would like to take this opportunity to remind you about this event.

The implications of the White Paper are far reaching and will affect all practices. The citywide meeting scheduled for **Thursday 13 January 2011** will be an important opportunity for you to hear what clinical leaders are proposing over the next year and to have your say on the direction of travel.

The LMC Executive would urge practices to ensure that they are represented at this event.

Further details can be found in the *LMC Newsflash* section of our website at:

<http://www.sheffield-lmc.org.uk/Newsflash/GPs%20and%20the%20White%20Paper%20in%20Sheffield%20-%20How%20to%20Make%20it%20Work%20Dec10.pdf>

It would be appreciated if you could confirm your attendance via email to [roni.foster-ash@sheffieldpct.nhs.uk](mailto:roni.foster-ash@sheffieldpct.nhs.uk)

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##### Liberating the NHS: Legislative framework and next steps

Following 3 months of consultation on its plans for the NHS, the government's response sets out further policy development.

The government is going to continue with the majority of the proposals made in the White Paper. However, there have been a number of changes, including the following:

- Maternity services will be commissioned by consortia, rather than the NHS Commissioning Board.
- Consortia will be required to have a written constitution.
- Strengthened role for health and wellbeing boards.
- Scrutiny functions will not be removed from local authorities.

A copy of the report can be downloaded from the Department of Health (DH) website at:

[http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH\\_122661](http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_122661)

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##### NHS Operating Framework 2011/12

The government has also published the NHS Operating Framework, which sets out what needs to happen during the transition year 2011/12.

This states that PCTs will merge into clusters by June 2011 in response to the drive to reduce management costs. Clusters are to support the

development of consortia by offering them a £2 per head development fund. This should be in addition to existing PBC DES funding.

A copy of the framework can be downloaded from the DH website at: [http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod\\_consum\\_dh/groups/dh\\_digitalassets/@dh/@en/@ps/documents/digitalasset/dh\\_122736.pdf](http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/@dh/@en/@ps/documents/digitalasset/dh_122736.pdf)

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##### Letter from GPC Chair

On 16 December 2010, Laurence Buckman, Chair of the General Practitioners Committee (GPC) wrote to all GPs with an update on a number of issues, the majority of which relate to the White Paper as follows:

- Response to the NHS White Paper *Liberating the NHS*.
- Critical engagement with the process.
- Pace of change.
- Transparency and accountability.
- Doctors working closely together.
- LMCs.
- GPC guidance on commissioning.
- Establishment of shadow consortia.

A copy of the letter can be downloaded from the GPC website at:

[http://www.bma.org.uk/images/letterogpswhitepaperdec2010\\_tcm41-202699.pdf](http://www.bma.org.uk/images/letterogpswhitepaperdec2010_tcm41-202699.pdf)

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## Liberating the NHS: developing the healthcare workforce

This DH consultation document sets out proposals to establish a new framework for developing the healthcare workforce and seeks views on the systems and processes that will be needed to support it.

The final date for responses is 31 March 2011.

The consultation document can be downloaded from the DH website via:

[http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Liveconsultations/DH\\_122590](http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Liveconsultations/DH_122590)

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### **SHEFFIELD LMC BUYING GROUP**

All Sheffield GP Practice Managers should have recently received an email communication announcing the launch of the Sheffield LMC Buying Group.

In the midst of the recession, when practices are already suffering the effects of several years without any significant uplift in NHS income, we hope that this will be a welcome, money saving initiative.

Once practices have joined the buying group they will receive a welcome pack containing details of our suppliers and other relevant information, such as a user name and password giving access to the Federation of LMC Buying Groups website and other benefits.

Any practices requiring further copies of the distributed information, can download this from the *Buying Group* section of our website as follows:

- Announcing the Launch of the Sheffield LMC Buying Group  
<http://www.sheffield-lmc.org.uk/Downloads/Buying%20Group%20Launch%20Announcement.pdf>
  - Q&A Factsheet  
<http://www.sheffield-lmc.org.uk/Downloads/OA%20factsheet%20Jan11.pdf>
  - Request to Join Proforma  
[http://www.sheffield-lmc.org.uk/buying\\_group.htm](http://www.sheffield-lmc.org.uk/buying_group.htm)
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### **DISABLED PERSON'S TRAVEL PERMIT**

Following negotiations between Sheffield LMC, NHS Sheffield and Sheffield City Council (SCC), a new disabled person's travel permit (bus, train, tram) application process has been introduced.

The new process will rarely require GP input and any input that is required will be requested directly by SCC. At no point should applicants contact their GP directly with a request for supporting evidence. Any applicant taking it upon themselves to do so should be directed back to SCC.

The LMC has produced guidance detailing the new process, which can be downloaded from the *LMC Guidance* section of our website at:

<http://www.sheffield-lmc.org.uk/lmc%20guidance/Travel%20Permits%20%284%29.pdf>

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### **REQUESTS FOR MEDICAL EVIDENCE IN SUPPORT OF BENEFIT APPEALS**

The LMC's guidance on the agreed process for patients to obtain medical evidence in support of their appeal against benefit withdrawal or refusal has been updated. This now offers greater clarity on GPs' statutory duties and the processes in place that should be followed by organisations such as Jobcentre Plus and the Department for Work and Pensions.

A copy of the amended guidance can be downloaded from the *LMC Guidance* section of our website at:

<http://www.sheffield-lmc.org.uk/lmc%20guidance/benefitappeals.pdf>

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### **DEATH CERTIFICATION AND MUSLIM BURIALS**

Following negotiations between Sheffield LMC, Sheffield Muslim Burial Forum, Sheffield GP Collaborative, the Coroner and NHS Sheffield, a new, voluntary process has been introduced for certifying the expected death of a Muslim patient.

The new process requests that where a GP is aware of an expected death in the Muslim community they

complete a GP Collaborative 'Special Notes Form'. This form should state whether or not the GP would be prepared to be contacted out of hours in the event of an expected death, in order to issue a death certificate.

The LMC has produced guidance on the new arrangement, which can be downloaded from the *LMC Guidance* section of our website at:

<http://www.sheffield-lmc.org.uk/lmc%20guidance/Death%20Certification%20and%20Muslim%20Burials.pdf>

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### **SENIORITY CLAWBACK**

The LMC office has been contacted by a number of low earning practices who are concerned about the size of seniority clawback they have been presented with following the publication of the DH's final seniority figures for 2004/5, 2005/6 and 2006/7.

The LMC has endeavoured to contact relevant authorities to ascertain whether there is any successful route of appeal. Although it is unlikely that the LMC will be able to assist further, contact has been made with a national firm of accountants who issued guidance suggesting a mechanism for appeal.

We await a response from the firm of accountants. In the meantime, interim guidance has been produced, which can be downloaded from the *LMC Guidance* section of our website at:

<http://www.sheffield-lmc.org.uk/lmc%20guidance/Seniority%20Clawback.pdf>

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Please forward any articles, comments etc for inclusion in the LMC newsletter to the LMC office via:

Email:  
[administrator@sheffieldlmc.org.uk](mailto:administrator@sheffieldlmc.org.uk)

Post: Sheffield LMC, Media House,  
63 Wostenholm Road, Sheffield S7  
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Articles for the February 2011 edition of the LMC newsletter to be received **by Monday 14 February 2011.**