

SHEFFIELD LOCAL MEDICAL COMMITTEE

NEWSLETTER

JULY 2011

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RESIGNATION: DR JAMES PARSONS

It is with regret that we announce the recent resignation of James Parsons from Sheffield LMC and from his role as LMC Executive Officer.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank James for his contribution to the LMC, initially as a GP Trainee representative and, more recently, as a salaried GP and locum representative and member of the LMC Executive.

We wish James all the very best in his relocation to Stoke.

ELECTED MEMBER VACANCY ON SHEFFIELD LMC

As a result of James Parsons' relocation, an elected member vacancy is available, which will run

until the end of the current electoral term, ie 30 November 2012.

The LMC Executive would encourage GPs to consider applying for the vacancy and to see this as an opportunity to experience the workings of the LMC.

Meetings of the full LMC are usually held on the second Monday of the month at 7.45 pm in the Lecture Theatre at Tapton Hall (occasionally dates are changed to avoid bank holidays, staff leave etc). In addition, members are encouraged to represent the LMC on other committees and this additional meeting attendance is funded by the organisers of the committees or the LMC.

The LMC's primary function is to represent Sheffield GPs and, therefore, it is extremely important that local GPs have a means of debating the important topical issues and influencing or making policy in order to represent the breadth of general practice in Sheffield. It is

also a very useful forum for keeping up-to-date with all that is happening in Primary Care and a chance to meet colleagues with differing views across the city.

Further details of the work of the LMC can be found in *A Guide to Your Local Medical Committee*, which is available via the LMC's website at:

<http://www.sheffield-lmc.org.uk/Downloads/LMC%20Guide.pdf>

It would be appreciated if initial expressions of interest could be forwarded to the LMC office via manager@sheffieldlmc.org.uk by **Wednesday 31 August 2011**.

If you require any further information or would like to discuss this prior to making a decision, please do not hesitate to contact Margaret Wicks, LMC Manager via manager@sheffieldlmc.org.uk or Tel: (0114) 2588755.

**COMMISSIONING TOGETHER
FOR SHEFFIELD: SUMMARY OF
MAIN THEMES/OUTCOMES**

As you will be aware, Sheffield LMC held a citywide event on Thursday 19 May 2011, the aim of which was to give Sheffield GPs and Practice Managers the opportunity to:

- share knowledge;
- express concerns, hopes, fears etc;
- explore the common values GPs hold and how these relate to patients' values;
- look at the RCGP's values and an educational/supportive approach to commissioning;
- gather ideas and address some of the issues raised during the evening.

The idea was that GPs and Practice Managers could think individually and in groups about what they know, what they do not know, what they need to find out, whether others are thinking the same way etc. To facilitate this, the event was divided into sections, with each section comprising of a brief introduction (by LMC or RCGP representatives), round table discussions and audience feedback.

The main outcomes and themes of the evening have been collated to provide a summary which we hope will be an informative reflection of current concerns and hopes about the future of the GP commissioning agenda, as well as suggestions and proposals for moving the agenda forward and seeing real benefits and improvements for the city. A copy of the summary can be downloaded from the *LMC Reports* section of the LMC website at:

<http://www.sheffield-lmc.org.uk/Reports/CTfs%20-%20Summary%20of%20Main%20Themes-Outcomes%20Jul11.pdf>

The LMC welcomes further feedback about this event, proposals for future events, GP commissioning, the Health and Social Care Bill etc. It is vital that Sheffield GPs feel able to air their views and participate in these important areas of work and debate. Please forward your comments to the LMC via email to: manager@sheffieldlmc.org.uk.

**GP COMMISSIONING POLL:
FINAL RESULTS**

As you will be aware, the initial results of Sheffield LMC's GP Commissioning Poll were formally presented at the LMC meeting in May and were subsequently published on the LMC's website.

Analysis of the free text parts of the poll then took place. The final results have now been published and can be downloaded from the *Facts and Information* section of the LMC website at:

http://www.sheffield-lmc.org.uk/Facts/Commissioning_Poll_Results_final_Jul11.pdf

If any represented GPs or Practice Managers have any comments or feedback they would like to submit to the LMC regarding the LMC's GP Commissioning poll or the wider commissioning agenda, these would be welcomed via email to:

manager@sheffieldlmc.org.uk

**GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO
THE NHS FUTURE FORUM
REPORT**

Further to the article in the June LMC newsletter, noting the initial response issued on 14 June 2011, the Government issued a more detailed response to the NHS Future Forum Report on 20 June 2011.

A copy of the detailed report can be downloaded from the DH website at: http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/document/digitalasset/dh_127719.pdf

**DEVELOPING THE NHS
COMMISSIONING BOARD**

The DH recently published this document, which sets out initial proposals from the NHS Commissioning Board development team about how the Board will operate and how it will be organised. Its publication is intended to give staff and stakeholders further clarity about the suggested design of the Board, and to serve as the basis of further engagement on how the Board should develop.

A copy of the document can be downloaded from the DH website at: http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/document/digitalasset/dh_128196.pdf

**HUMAN RESOURCES (HR)
TRANSITION FRAMEWORK**

The DH recently published their HR Transition Framework, which provides the overarching guiding standards for the Department, NHS and Arm's Length Bodies (ALBs) relating to the movement of employees to the new or changed bodies proposed in the Health and Social Care Bill 2011.

The framework has been developed by the HR transition partnership forum, made up of representatives from the DH, trade unions and NHS organisations.

A copy of the framework can be downloaded from the DH website at: http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/document/digitalasset/dh_128103.pdf

**ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF
LMCS 2011**

General Practitioners Committee (GPC) and LMC representatives meet at the Annual Conference of LMCs.

Proposals from individual LMCs across the country are debated, alongside those from the GPC. The outcome of the debate determines the framework for the profession's negotiations. National negotiations take place continually between the Secretary of State and his team of negotiators and the GPC negotiating team.

The Annual Conference of LMCs 2011 was held in London on Thursday 9 and Friday 10 June. A report on the main items of note can be downloaded from the *LMC Reports* section of the LMC website at:

<http://www.sheffield-lmc.org.uk/Reports/Annual%20Conference%202011.pdf>

SAFETY ALERTS IN PRIMARY CARE

In the March 2011 LMC newsletter it was noted that NHS Sheffield (NHSS) had raised concerns with the LMC regarding practice access to and compliance with safety alerts.

Information was disseminated to practices via LMC guidance, available at:

<http://www.sheffield-lmc.org.uk/lmc%20guidance/Safety%20Alerts%20in%20Primary%20Care.pdf>

At that time practices were encouraged to read the guidance, access any additional help and information they require and feedback comments and concerns in time for an LMC/NHSS review later in the year.

The LMC only received feedback from 1 practice and will, therefore, be primarily reviewing NHSS's concerns with practice access rather than practice concerns. However, if any practices have any issues they would like to have considered at the review, it would be appreciated if these could be emailed to the LMC office via:

manager@sheffieldlmc.org.uk.

SESSIONAL GP/TRAINEE REPRESENTATION

The LMC has recently updated its guidance and processes for representing sessional and trainee GPs. The revised guidance explains the advice, support, documentation etc available to represented sessional and trainee GPs.

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

[http://www.sheffield-lmc.org.uk/lmc%20guidance/Sessional GP-Trainee Representation.pdf](http://www.sheffield-lmc.org.uk/lmc%20guidance/Sessional%20GP-Trainee%20Representation.pdf)

As noted in the guidance, any sessional or trainee GPs who are not currently represented by Sheffield LMC, can request representation by completing and returning the *Sessional GP/Trainee Request for Sheffield LMC Representation* proforma available in the *Facts &*

Information section of the LMC website at:

http://www.sheffield-lmc.org.uk/Facts/Sessional_GP_Trainee_Request_for_SLMC_Representation.doc

Any GPs requiring further information or wishing to discuss any aspect of the LMC's representation of sessional and trainee GPs, please contact the LMC office via email to:

manager@sheffieldlmc.org.uk

CARE QUALITY COMMISSION (CQC) REGISTRATION CONSULTATION

Further to the article in the June 2011 LMC newsletter, please note that the Department of Health (DH) has launched a consultation on delaying the start date of CQC registration for GP practices to April 2013, while proposing that the registration of out of hours providers and NHS walk-in centres should still go ahead in April 2012.

In the consultation, they have said that they remain committed to bringing GP practices into the registration system operated by the CQC, but that a delay would provide the opportunity to ensure that the CQC's systems, tools and processes have been refined in the light of the experience of the earlier registration rounds and piloting with primary medical services providers.

While the proposed delay is welcome, the GPC remains concerned about the additional and unnecessary administrative burden that the current process will create, as well as the fee. The GPC will be submitting a full response to the consultation.

The GPC's stance remains that GPs and their staff should not progress with registering their practice or enter into any kind of agreement with any third party to do so.

The consultation and accompanying ministerial statement are available at: http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Liveconsultations/DH_127174

The deadline for responses is 29 July 2011.

PATIENT PARTICIPATION DES - FAQs

As previously reported, the 2011-2012 GMS contract agreement included a new Patient Participation DES, which will run for 2 years in England.

The main stages of the DES are that practices:

- develop a structure that gains the views of patients and enables the practice to obtain feedback from the practice population, eg a patient reference group.
- agree areas of priority with their patient reference group.
- collate patient views through a patient survey.
- agree an action plan with their patient reference group.
- publicise the results of the patient survey.
- publicise the actions taken and what is achieved as a result.

The GPC has produced an FAQ document to address some misconceptions that have arisen about the requirements of the DES and point practices towards online resources that they may find useful.

A copy of the FAQs can be downloaded from the *Other Guidance* section of the LMC website at:

[http://www.sheffield-lmc.org.uk/OG11/Patient Participation on DES.pdf](http://www.sheffield-lmc.org.uk/OG11/Patient_Participation_DES.pdf)

CHRONIC KIDNEY DISEASE FAQS

The GPC and NHS Employers (NHSE) have recently published an updated set of questions and answers in relation to chronic kidney disease and the Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF) indicators.

First published in November 2009, these FAQs have now been updated to take into account current issues and the latest available evidence in line with NICE guidelines for this disease area.

In particular, the updated guidance includes new sections, *Management*

of CKD - summary and Stages of chronic kidney disease and complications. It also includes new annexes, *What should practices do if they do not have access to eGFR?* and *Glossary of terms*.

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

<http://www.sheffield-lmc.org.uk/OG11/CKD%20FAQ%20Jul11.pdf>

**PROTECTING CHILDREN AND
YOUNG PEOPLE: GMC
CONSULTATION**

The General Medical Council (GMC) has produced draft guidance *Protecting Children and Young People: The Responsibilities of all Doctors*.

The guidance makes it clear that every doctor has a responsibility to protect children, even if they are only treating parents for a condition that could affect their ability to care for a child.

The GMC is now requesting views on whether this draft guidance for doctors on this difficult and sensitive area is correct.

The aim of the guidance is to ensure that doctors feel confident in raising and acting on concerns about the safety and welfare of vulnerable children by providing clear and detailed advice on how to deal with concerns about the abuse or neglect of children and young people. It includes a foreword making clear that when doctors follow the principles in this guidance, they will not be subject to censure by the GMC.

The draft guidance covers a range of important issues from identifying children and young people who may be at risk of abuse or neglect to how to give evidence about suspected abuse in court or when to share information about suspected abuse.

Other key issues include the importance of working closely and effectively with other professionals involved in child protection and the benefits of good and constructive

communication with parents and carers.

A copy of the draft guidance can be downloaded from the GMC website at:

http://www.gmc-uk.org/Child_protection_consultation_2_.pdf 42123624.pdf

The **consultation ends on 14 October 2011**, with a view to the final guidance being published in early 2012.

**INTERIM SENIORITY FIGURES
2011/12**

The 2011/12 interim seniority figures for General Medical Services contractors have recently been published by the Technical Steering Committee.

The figure for England is £93,972.

Further details, plus information about the methodology are available on the NHS Information Centre website at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/tsc

**CANCER SUPPORT:
NEW SERVICE**

*Article submitted by Rosalind Eve,
Chief Executive, Age UK Sheffield*

Age UK Sheffield and Macmillan Cancer Support are pleased to announce a new, citywide cancer support service. We are providing free, non-clinical, support to anyone over the age of 50 who has been affected by cancer.

Service users may have a cancer diagnosis themselves, they may care for someone who has had a diagnosis or they may be a relative or friend.

Highly experienced Age UK Sheffield staff provide the support which ranges from simple sign-posting through to in-depth support planning: working alongside service users for as long as it takes to link them to the resources they need to live independent, socially connected lives.

The service helps people deal with problems as diverse as impractical housing, aids and adaptations, social isolation or lack of confidence.

The service augments health care provision and the outcome for patients will be an improved quality of life.

We are keen for primary health care professionals to refer as necessary.

Referral to the service can be by telephone (0114) 2502850, email: debbie.price@ageuksheffield.org.uk, fax (0114) 2502860 or in person at 44 Castle Square, Sheffield S1 2GF (Mon-Fri, 10.30 am to 1.00 pm).

People can self-refer or it can be done on their behalf by professionals or friends.

The service will be formally launched on 16 September 2011, 12.30 to 2.30 pm at the Sheffield United Conference Centre. Service users and Dr Anthony Gore, GP Cancer Lead will talk about the service, what it can achieve and how it can be used.

This will be an ideal opportunity to meet the service staff, network with colleagues and pick up referral details. A buffet lunch and refreshments will be available. If you would like to come to the launch please contact Age UK Sheffield on Tel: (0114) 2502850 or email: debbie.price@ageuksheffield.org.uk

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

Email:
administrator@sheffieldlmc.org.uk

Post:
Sheffield LMC
Media House
63 Wostenholm Road
Sheffield S7 1LE

Articles for the August 2011 edition of the LMC newsletter to be received **by Monday 8 August 2011**.