

Newsletter

April 2024

Sheffield
LMC



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OBITUARY:

DR STEPHEN WRIGHT

Author: Dr Jonathan Roddick

Sadly, Stephen died on 18 March 2024 after a very short illness.

Stephen started his career as a GP in Woodseats in 1965, initially in partnership with Dr Ward Kay for 12 months, then single handed until he joined with Dr Roger Thompson in 1973. The practice has steadily grown ever since and continues to do so. He was a great clinician, loved by his patients many of whom still talk about him now.

Stephen was the true founder of Woodseats Medical Centre. He was a pioneer in the development of the role of practice manager and in the development of the primary care team. His work and influence stretched well beyond Woodseats Medical Centre, having posts both locally and Nationally for the RCGP. He retired in 2000 after 35 years of service. After his retirement from general practice he continued in both local and national roles and has been a great advocate for general practice.

Stephen will be sadly missed by his colleagues and his patients, but most of all by his wife Freda and his family.

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NEWSFLASH: SOUTH YORKSHIRE GP SAVE OUR SURGERIES (SOS) WHATSAPP GROUP

A newsflash was emailed to all represented Sheffield GPs on 21 March 2024, with an invitation to join the South Yorkshire GP SOS WhatsApp group.

If you have not already done so, details of how to join the group can be found in the Newsflash [here](#).

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REBUILD GENERAL PRACTICE PATIENT ENGAGEMENT TOOLKIT

[Rebuild General Practice](#) has launched a [patient engagement toolkit](#) action pack containing ideas, tools and support available for individual GPs wishing to engage with patients about the Rebuild General Practice campaign.

The Rebuild General Practice [patient engagement animation](#) can be downloaded to GP practice screens.

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SHEFFIELD LMC REPRESENTATION OF SHEFFIELD GPs

As many of you will be aware, in 2016 we stopped automatically receiving contact updates from Primary Care Support England (PCSE) when GPs joined / left the Performers List or updated their entry. This has made it extremely difficult to know of, and offer representation to, all eligible GPs, particularly locum GPs.

More recently, we have been receiving reports from PCSE when GPs access PCSE's online portal and consent to their details being shared with their LMC.

If you are aware of, or become aware of, GPs working in Sheffield who are not represented by us (receiving regular communications, newsletters etc), it would be helpful if you could encourage them to:

1. Contact us directly via adminassistant@sheffieldlmc.org.uk requesting representation, or
2. Log on to PCSE online (<https://secure.pcse.england.nhs.uk>) and select the Performers List section, view the Personal Details section and agree to the passing on of contact details to their chosen LMC.

Thank you.

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LMC BUYING GROUP MEMBERSHIP: REMINDER

The LMC Buying Group helps GP practices save money on products and services they regularly buy. The Buying Group has negotiated excellent discounts on a wide range of products and services from their approved suppliers.

Buying Group membership is completely free and there is no compulsion to use all the suppliers. They do the hard work associated with finding the most competitive suppliers in cost and customer service, so they save you time as well as money on your purchasing!

Although the Buying Group was originally set up to help GP practices save money on the products and services they regularly buy, membership is now also open to GP Federations and Primary Care Networks.

Why use the Buying Group?

- No membership fees
- Quality products and services
- Access to a recruitment platform to advertise your clinical and non-clinical roles for free and a premium 'Featured Job' package for a small fee.
- Access to a community resource hub
- Excellent negotiated discounts from a range of suppliers
- Free cost analysis for members
- No need to 'shop around' anymore – we've done the hard work already!

If you are not sure whether you are a member and / or have access to the Buying Group website (this is where you can view the pricing / discounts and get quotes) then contact the Buying Group team on 0115 979 6910 or info@lmcbuyinggroups.co.uk. They can also help you with any questions you might have about your membership or the suppliers.

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RESPONSE TO SHARED CARE REQUESTS FROM PRIVATE PROVIDERS

In the current climate of significant pressures faced by the NHS across the board, many patients are seeking specialist healthcare privately.

Whilst some of these private specialist assessments will provide management plans in line with local NHS provision, GPs are faced with a dilemma of having to action the recommendations where there is conflict between what the private specialist is recommending versus what is agreed and commissioned as an NHS service locally.

The LMC has produced guidance intended to support GPs and their staff navigate this challenge, which can be accessed [here](#).

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MAILBOX FOR PRIMARY CARE TO SECONDARY CARE COMMUNICATIONS

As you will be aware from our previous communications, Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (STHFT) has set up a generic email address for Sheffield GP practices to use to direct constructive feedback and highlight opportunities for learning and improvement - sth.lmpagsheffield@nhs.net.

When sharing feedback via the LMC, patient identifiable data (PID) must be redacted. This is not an issue with sth.lmpagsheffield@nhs.net, as long as primary care colleagues *email from an nhs.net address*. Any PID shared will be treated with appropriate confidentiality and respect. Examples of issues that might be shared include:

- Ideas for new or improved collaboration across primary and secondary care services.
- Primary care feedback on the appropriateness of STHFT requests for patient care interventions.
- Positive feedback to STHFT teams to highlight helpful or successful actions, particularly if learning can be extrapolated to other areas to have a positive impact.

The inbox is monitored by senior clinicians on a weekly basis, so cannot be used for specific cases that require a direct, time sensitive response / resolution.

Where a practice has a specific example of an inappropriate transfer that requires immediate refusal and action by secondary care, we urge practices to pass this back to the requesting clinician without delay. As the LMC must not receive any patient identifiable information, direct communication between the practice and the secondary care clinician is necessary.

If a practice is in any doubt as to whether a request is inappropriate we are, of course, happy to receive redacted information for the LMC Executive to review.

If despite direct communication with secondary care, the clinician or hospital directorate concerned refuses to accept the returned request, or continues to pass on inappropriate workload, then specific redacted examples can be forwarded to the LMC office. Where there are ongoing examples, rather than a one off error or misunderstanding, we can then enter into negotiations with the relevant directorate or raise concerns at a meeting with secondary care clinicians.

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NEW CARE QUALITY COMMISSION (CQC) INSPECTION FORMAT FOR GENERAL PRACTICE

Clare Normington, Managing Partner at Manor and Park Group Practice recently gave a presentation at a North Practice Managers meeting on the new CQC inspection format.

Clare has kindly agreed to us sharing the [presentation](#), which covers various topics, including:

- Overview of what has changed.
- The new CQC inspection.
- The data request spreadsheet.
- The portal.
- Online interviews with the GP and PM.
- Onsite inspection – new elements.
- Training – what are they looking for.

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REFERRAL FORM FOR ADHD / AUTISM ASSESSMENT AT RYEGATE CHILDREN'S CENTRE

Concerns have been raised with the LMC regarding the referral form for childhood ADHD / Autism concerns assessment at Ryegate.

The form contains options for the reason for referral being *ADHD*, *Autism*, *ADHD & Autism* or *Not Sure*. It was thought that the *Not Sure* box allowed for an assessment for either condition. However, a recent case of this box being ticked for a child resulted in the child eventually being seen in a general paediatric clinic, albeit by a Neurodevelopmental specialist.

The specialist informed the parent that they could not assess their child for ADHD or autism as this had to be done in specific clinics. The parent has complained to the GP practice, as they now require another referral to Ryegate for assessment and are, once again, subject to a lengthy wait.

We have flagged these concerns with Ryegate and hope to be able to update practices in due course. In the meantime, we felt that referring clinicians should be aware of the consequences of using the *Not Sure* box.

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COMMUNITY HEALTH & EYECARE LTD (CHEC) OUT PATIENT SERVICES FOR UPPER AND LOWER GASTROINTESTINAL DISORDERS

LMC and [CHEC](#) representatives met following a number of queries to the LMC regarding patient interactions with CHEC, and some confusion regarding referrals and commissioning arrangements.

CHEC have clarified that:

- They are directly commissioned by NHS South Yorkshire Integrated Care Board (ICB), and are not subcontracted to Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (STHFT).
- Their Sheffield hospital is located at Sheffield Business Park, Unit 12 Europa View, Tinsley, Sheffield S9 1XH.
- GPs can refer gastroenterology patients direct to CHEC via e-RS by following the usual referral process via e-RS and selecting CHEC (RAS or Direct Bookable Service depending on referral type).

Further information can be found via the links below:

- [CHEC update for GPs](#)
- [CHEC Gastro Service Guide](#)

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VERY HIGH-RISK BREAST SCREENING

NHS England (NHSE) is currently contacting a group of 1,487 women at very high risk of breast cancer following chest radiotherapy for Hodgkin lymphoma, after NHSE was alerted that some of these women treated when aged between 10 to 35 years during 1962 to 2003 may not have been invited for this annual testing.

NHSE has sent a letter apologising for what has happened and NHS breast screening services will follow up by offering appointments.

Anyone who thinks they might be in this group can get further information and support from a dedicated helpline: 0345 8778962. More information can be found [here](#).

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ANNUAL FLU LETTER

The tripartite annual flu letter for 2024/25 has now been published: [National flu immunisation programme 2024 to 2025 letter](#).

The letter sets out for providers the details of which cohorts are eligible for a flu vaccine in 2024/25 and which vaccines will be reimbursable. There are no changes to the cohorts for next year's programme, but based on JCVI advice, there are changes to the timing of the adult programme.

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OVER-THE-COUNTER ITEMS: NOT ROUTINELY PRESCRIBED IN PRIMARY CARE

NHS England has published new guidance on conditions for which over the counter items should not be routinely prescribed in primary care, which can be accessed [here](#).

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CAMERON FUND NEWSLETTER: SPRING 2024

The Cameron Fund provides help and support solely to GPs, including those who are retired, and their dependants. It aims to meet needs that vary considerably, from the elderly in nursing homes to young, chronically sick doctors and their families, and those suffering from unexpected and unpredictable problems such as relationship breakdown or financial difficulties following the actions of professional regulatory bodies. Careful consideration is given to the help most needed, which could be advice, a grant or a loan.

The Fund's [Spring 2024 newsletter](#) covers a number of topics such as:

- News from the Chair
- Pension advice
- International Practitioner Health Summit 2024
- Fundraising

If you know of colleagues who may need help from the Cameron Fund please encourage them to contact the Fund.

More information on how to contact the Cameron Fund, the support they can offer and how to donate can be found [here](#).

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STAFFING CHANGES AT SHEFFIELD LMC

It is with sadness that the LMC has to announce that Claire Clough, LMC Administrator, will be retiring at the end of April.

Claire will have been with the LMC for over 9 years. In that time she has supported the LMC Executive and Manager by being the first point of contact at the LMC office, which became particularly challenging during the pandemic. She has managed the conflicting demands and difficulties inherent in coordinating diaries and scheduling meetings, helping everyone to adapt to Zoom and, more recently, the Teams meeting environment.

Claire's impressive attendance record, willingness to take on whatever tasks were required, sense of humour and DIY skills will be sadly missed. We wish Claire every success and happiness in her retirement and relocation.

We hope to be able to make a further announcement regarding our recruitment to the post of LMC Administrator shortly.

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**Please forward any articles for inclusion in the LMC newsletter to
manager@sheffieldlmc.org.uk**

Submission deadlines can be found [here](#)

Contact details for Sheffield LMC Executive can be found [here](#)

Contact details for Sheffield LMC Secretariat can be found [here](#)



Sheffield LMC's free peer to peer mentoring, coaching and signposting for General Practice. GP-S is free and open to all represented Sheffield GPs. More information can be found [here](#).