

# Newsletter

## February 2025

Sheffield  
LMC



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### UPDATE FROM ALASTAIR BRADLEY, LMC SECRETARY

Whilst my tenure as the Chair of the LMC has ended, I wanted to write to you to inform you that I will continue to support the LMC as the Secretary during the next 4-year term.

We have seen many changes to general practice during my term as Chair; the introduction of Primary Care Networks (PCNs), a pandemic, the move from Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) to Integrated Care Boards (ICBs) and imposed contracts from NHS England (NHSE). Through all of this GPs in Sheffield continue to show the resilience and superior delivery of care possible under the independent contractor status. While ever this is the case, I will continue to be a strong advocate for such a model and for investment directly into practices.

This term of the LMC also saw the retirement of David Savage, who had served GPs of the city through the LMC for 35 years. I wish him well in his retirement and various volunteering activities.

On a personal note, I would like to thank those generous enough to have given me personal words of support during my term as Chair and hope that the same can be afforded to my successor, Danielle McSeveney. Sheffield has an excellent (and younger) Executive, supported by a great Secretariat and Committee. I am encouraged that so many people give up their time to support the GPs of Sheffield in developing better services for patients.

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### RIGHT TO CHOOSE AND SHARED CARE GUIDANCE FOR ADHD/ASD

In the current climate of significant pressures faced by the NHS across the board, many patients are seeking specialist ADHD / ASD assessments via NHS Right to Choose (RTC). Whilst some of these 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 RTC provider is recommending versus what is agreed and commissioned as an NHS service locally.

The LMC has issued [guidance](#) intended to support GPs and their staff navigate this challenge.

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### ACCELERATED ACCESS TO PROSPECTIVE GP RECORDS

Following several reports from practices feeling pressured to enable prospective access to records, the General Practitioners Committee (GPC) has issued a position update which can be accessed [here](#).

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## **HELP ADDRESS THE GP UNEMPLOYMENT CRISIS**

Despite the rising demand for family doctors, a paradox exists where a significant number of highly skilled GPs are struggling to secure work.

The UK Sessional GP Committee of the British Medical Association (BMA) is looking for salaried and locum members to help highlight this pressing situation of the growing unemployment crisis among GPs by completing their [survey](#).

The input is critical to understanding the full extent of this crisis, as well as strengthening the BMA's lobbying efforts for meaningful change.

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## **SAFE WORKING GUIDANCE 'CORE' GENERAL PRACTICE**

As part of [Safe working in general practice in England guidance](#) General Practitioners Committee England (GPCE) has developed a section focusing on ['Core' general practice](#) to help practices identify which services are included within 'core' General Medical Services (GMS).

It is not always clear which services are included within 'core' GMS, leading to some practices potentially offering unfunded services. Therefore, GPCE has compiled a list of locally commissioned services that should be commissioned separately.

If a practice is asked to provide un-commissioned services, GPCE recommends declining and working with the local Integrated Care System (ICS) to ensure proper commissioning.

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## **NEW TO PARTNERSHIP SCHEME 2025-26**

*Information provided by Esme Lawy, South Yorkshire Primary Care Workforce & Training Hub Fellow*

Are you a new\* GP Partner or are you seriously considering partnership?

Would you like to know more about practice accounts, how partnerships and practices work, estates, HR, leadership, managing conflict and change, wellbeing and resilience and tackling health inequalities as a partner?

Would you value having peer support and the option of a specialised mentor?

More information about the scheme, including how to express an interest can be found [here](#).

*\*within the first 1-2 years*

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## **MANAGING THE SUDDEN AND UNEXPECTED DEATH OF A COLLEAGUE**

The [Society of Occupational Medicine](#) (SOM) and [The Louise Tebboth Foundation](#) recently updated and relaunched the following documents:

- [A Framework for Managing the Sudden and Unexpected Death of a Colleague in Primary Care Setting](#)
- [Responding to the Death by Suicide of a Colleague in Primary Care: A Postvention Framework](#)

In addition, the Royal College of Practitioners (RCGP) has advisers trained to provide practical operational support and be a voice for the practice as they navigate a difficult and destabilising time following the death of a key member of the practice, such as a partner or practice manager.

The Sudden Bereavement Support service is provided at no cost to the practice. It is supported by the mental health service provided by Practitioner Health.

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## HIDDEN WORKLOAD STUDY

Article submitted by The Hidden Workload Study Team

The Hidden Workload Study now has over 600 participants across over 350 practices, but we need more help!

We want to better understand the daily workload of all clinicians who work in general practice (doctors, nurses, pharmacists, physician associates, and all other allied health professionals) and explore the large amount of work that you do other than seeing patients in planned consultations.

Participants simply record all the work they do on a single allocated workday using a simple form in March/April 2025.

### Four reasons to join The Hidden Workload Study

1. Learn more about how you, and your practice, manage and allocate your workload.
2. Become a [co-author](#) on any resulting publications and presentations.
3. Receive a [bespoke PACT practice report](#), which includes benchmarked national workload study data. This can be used for quality improvement projects and practice service development.
4. Optionally become a [PACT Champion](#) in your practice, taking on a local research leadership role for this study in a supported way.

To join The Hidden Workload Study, or to find out more, please go to [www.gppact.org/the-hidden-workload-study](http://www.gppact.org/the-hidden-workload-study).

If you have any questions, please email us at [hws@sgul.ac.uk](mailto:hws@sgul.ac.uk).

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**Please forward any articles for inclusion in the LMC newsletter to**  
[manager@sheffieldlmc.org.uk](mailto: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](#).