

April 2020 NEWSLETTER

LOCAL MEDICAL COMMITTEE

LMC

GLOUCESTERSHIRE

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COVID 19

WHO declared a global pandemic on 11 March 2020, though most of us had already come to that conclusion. The emphasis is on planning, processes and equipment. It is a fast-moving scenario. Read about it [here](#). The CCG continues to send regular briefings. The emphasis is on consistent communication, pragmatism, and cooperative interagency working.

The CCG would like to hear from any recently retired GPs who are still on the performer's list and might be willing to work. I am given to understand by the appraisal team that NHSE/GMC will be writing to every GP who came off the NPL in the last 5 years to ask if they may be able to work for a while. The NPL regulations do include such emergency measures that the Secretary of State for Health can invoke in a national emergency and these will guide us all in due course.

The UK Government's emergency [Coronavirus Act 2020](#) has now become law. As mentioned previously, the Act includes a wide array of emergency measures that can be implemented in order to respond to, and manage the effects of, the COVID-19 pandemic across the UK. An overview of the Act's powers are outlined in [this Govt page](#).

Due to an amendment to the legislation, during scrutiny in the Commons, the powers in the Act will be reviewed by parliamentarians [every 6 months](#).

The LMC continues to work hard on behalf of all GPs and practices. Suspension of routine CQC visits has been secured, QOF activity for 2019/20 is largely complete and QOF calculations will be made as usual. However, given the priority that may need to be given to COVID-19 work, they will undertake a piece of analysis to confirm the impact and will make a one-off adjustment for practices who earned less in 2019/20 than 2018/19 as a result of COVID-19 activities. QOF for 2020/21 they will protect QOF income as necessary to respond to COVID-19, so that your businesses remain viable. Appraisals have been suspended.

The LMC is working with the Police, other LMCs, Coroner, Coroner's Officer, Crematorium Referees and Undertakers on creative solutions to processes which will minimise the risk to the living. We are also in constant touch with National events through the LMC exchange system which has been very busy!

During a meeting of the LMC Executive, the following specific points were discussed.

1. The availability and use of personal protective equipment (PPE): It appears that the use, the level of equipment, and interpretation of risk varies across the county. We are assured that more is coming. Some practices are reported to be buying their own equipment. Some have considered saving it for re-use. Others are improvising. We believe that this represents third world action in a first world country. The mantra nationally is NO PPE NO SEE.
2. Development of community hubs: Whilst the LMC supports the idea in principle, it pre supposes that adequate PPE is available. We cannot support putting doctors, their patients, colleagues, and families at risk. One should always consider 'Why am I seeing this patient?' Remote consultation should be the order of the day. We believe it should be voluntary for staff to work there. We cannot support coercion.
3. When medical staff contract covid and recover, they should only return to work when fully fit to do so. It is hard to be sure when full immunity takes place so continue wearing full PPE. Serology will be helpful when it materialises. Full immunity could take much longer than is thought so consider more telephone triage working that face to face.

The LMC will continue to run with a mixture of office and home working. Some of our meetings will be by skype Zoom or telephone.

URGENT WORKFORCE RESPONSE UPDATE

The CCG and the Gloucestershire Primary Care Training Hub are working to develop workforce solutions to ensure that practices are supported over the coming weeks. Solutions include:

- Working with over 20 retired GPs to discuss return to general practice or other support roles
- Engaging with locums who have additional capacity to match with practices and services over the next 8 weeks
- Supporting primary care training and development needs during this time

Practice Managers and GPs are advised to complete their SITREPs each day to include any workforce challenges that they may currently be experiencing, from which requests will be passed to the Primary Care Workforce Team at the CCG. Correspondence and information relating to this Urgent Workforce Response can be found on the Gloucestershire Primary Care Workforce Website at this [link](#).

We are interested in understanding the support primary care needs with either workforce or training during this time. Queries can be made through the existing channels, or direct contact via email at glccg.pwc@nhs.net or 0300 421 1433.

FIREARMS LICENSING

Gloucestershire Constabulary has suspended the processing of new firearms applications. They will continue to manage and ensure the safety of the current cohort of license holders but no new grants will be made. That will mean that you should not be approached for any screening letters. I know this is likely to be incredibly low down your priorities at the moment. You can just turn these issues away. The Firearms Officer will be writing to BASC and the Police will update their website.

SAFE HOUSE

GP Safe House (GPSH) is a virtual safe house providing a refuge and support for practitioners experiencing professional challenges. It guarantees anonymity, security and confidentiality and understands that these are essential. GPSH has five virtual rooms which offer support, information and resources. Each room corresponds to a different potential problem area. It has recently received a makeover/update from Somerset LMC who devised it. Services available are:

- **Consulting Room** - Personal Health Information for the Gloucestershire Area
- **Burnout Recovery Suite** - Burnout and Stress
- **Professional Relationships Bureau** - Working Relationship Problems
- **Library of Solutions** - Non-clinical Aspects of Patient Care
- **Career Development Office** - Professional Development
- **Contacts for Support and Advice** - This is a link to the Gloucestershire LMC Advocate Area which offers the possibility of a personal, completely anonymous, one-to-one, online consultation with a professional advisor as well as more everyday modes of communication!

The administration staff from the LMC have now emailed all GPs who have not previously been issued a password. If you did not receive an email from us but feel you would like to use this service please contact the office via telephone, email or the Contact Us form on our website.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE LMC 2019/2020 ANNUAL REPORT

The annual report has now been finalised by the LMC Members and is available on the LMC Website or clicking this link. [LMC Annual Report](#).

GPC ELECTION FOR GLOUCESTERSHIRE AND AVON

Congratulations to Dr Tom Yerburgh who has been re-elected as the GPC member for Gloucestershire and Avon. He wishes to thank those who supported his campaign and voted for him, and will continue to keep the county updated on all things GPC.

LMC ELECTIONS 2020

Dr Alison Macrae will replace Dr Chris Morton as the representative for the North Cotswolds. North East Gloucestershire is still vacant. The Executive, and all other committee members are as before.

Dr Tom Yerburgh remains as Chair. The Executive remains as before. No one has come forward to take on the role of Treasurer, and Dr Phil Fielding remains as interim Treasurer.

LMC UK CONFERENCES

LMC Secretaries conference March 2020

The emphasis was on inclusivity. We represent all GPs, and are delighted to have salaried and sessional doctors as part of our Committee. There was a presentation from Dr Moederle Lumb on the work of the General Practice Defence Fund (GPDF). You can read about it [here](#).

We also received a presentation about the Cameron Fund, the charity which supports GPs in financial distress. (It is not related to a previous Prime Minister). You can read about it, or donate, [here](#).

We hope to hold an LMC development day in the future, when circumstances permit. We welcome feedback from all our readers.

LMC Special Conference 11 March 2020

This meeting took place in London. The 2020 PCN DES had been agreed before the conference occurred. Conference considered 2020/21 negotiations, GP workforce, pay transparency, partnership incentive, fellowships, GP head count, premises, vaccinations, access, continuity of care, out of hours, PCN DES, PCN opt out, PCN specification, care homes, PCN modelling, and the investment and impact fund. There was a themed debate on the ARRS scheme. There was discussion on tax advice, and the future of PCNs. The final motion of the day was proposed by Berkshire, Bedfordshire and Oxfordshire LMC who think that the PCN DES should actually be rejected. This was carried, giving a message to the GPC that the profession as a whole is not happy with it, and leaving the conference with the rather unsatisfactory conclusion of a cliff hanger. View the webcast [here](#).

LMC UK Conference, York, May

This meeting is cancelled, as are the BMA roadshows on the new contract.

FIRST FIVE GROUPS

Newly qualified GPs in the first five years of practice often find it helpful to be part of a peer support group. Dr Laura Halden, who serves on the LMC and works with the Gloucestershire training hub, is considering how best to take this forward. If interested in forming or joining a 'First five' group, please contact Laura at laurahalden@nhs.net.

We have already received an enquiry from Dr Alex Alimo who is a GP who works in Swindon and lives in Cirencester, and would like to join a group in Cirencester. Please contact him at aalimo@nhs.net if you are able to help. It may be possible to form a virtual network.

SESSIONAL GP ISSUES

NHS mails has been rolled out for all sessional GPs, recognising the important contribution of locum GPs to the workforce. GP locums can apply [here](#).

Sessional GPs are represented on the LMC by Dr Jethro Hubbard, who can be contacted at jethro.hubbard@nhs.net. GPCE is working hard to try and get assurance from NHSE regarding pension provision and death in service benefits for locums at this difficult time.

A PENNY FOR YOUR THOUGHTS

On the Ides of March, Dr Dent was ensconced in an armchair, happily re-reading 'Jane's Fighting Stethoscopes' which was one of her favourite books. It lived on a shelf next to 'Bailey and Love's Short Practice of Surgery' (1981) which bore a stain on the cover where she had once used it in an experimental way to bash a ganglion. She pondered the question of receiving a letter from the GMC inviting her to fight an invisible enemy, and consulted her improbability drive, finding the odds to be two to the power of 276709 to one against. Then she heard that the Cambridge Science festival had been cancelled mid-event, and figured they'd been doing sums again. She repeated the question to the improbability drive, which imploded. Apparently, it had a virus.

She dredged the memory bank for the words of Pendower of Charing Cross Hospital.

'When considering what the presenting symptoms of a condition may be, begin your list with THERE MAY BE NONE.' Practical procedures are learned by the adage 'See one, do one, teach one'.

With or without a pan galactic gargle blaster, this was going to be a rather bumpy ride.

Which book and author am I rambling about? My own copy is a 1979 edition which cost £0.95, still excellent value. Answers to penelopewest@gloslmc.com.

Congratulations to Dr Teresa Pietroni winner of the March competition. The answer was 'The Adventures of Alice in Wonderland' written under the pen name of Lewis Carroll, actually named Charles Dodgson. There were 4 correct entries. Delivery of Easter egg deferred.

Our fun competition will continue unless anyone says they'd rather listen to a Vogon poetry reading.

Prizes henceforth will be a £10 donation to a charity chosen by the winner, who will retain the bragging rights.

The LMC is here to watch your back, and we have 'Don't Panic' in large friendly letters on the cover. My personal mobile number is 07415290140 if that is useful.

This newsletter was prepared by Dr Penelope West and colleagues, at the LMC Office.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

A full list of current job adverts is at <http://www.gloslmc.com/blog-job-vacancies.asp> and available below.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE			Date posted	Closing Date
Kingsway Health Centre	Gloucester	GPs	25 Sept 19	Open
Newnham and Westbury Surgery	Newnham	Salaried GP	25 Sept 19	Open
Cirencester Health Group	Cirencester	Salaried GP	13 Nov 19	Open
Chipping Campden Surgery	Gloucestershire	GP	20 Nov 19	Open
The Lydney Practice	Lydney	Partnership	28 Nov 19	Open
The Culverhay Surgery	Wotton-Under-Edge	Salaried GPs	28 Nov 19	Open
Royal Crescent Surgery	Cheltenham	Salaried GP	4 Dec 19	Open
Gloucester Health Access Centre	Gloucester	Salaried GP	11 Dec 19	Open
Brunston and Lydbrook Practice	Coleford	Salaried or Partner GP	13 Dec 19	Open
Aspen Medical Centre	Gloucester	Salaried GP and Maternity Locum	20 Dec 19	Open
Portland Practice	Cheltenham	GP Partner/Salaried GP	03 Jan 20	Open
Gloucester City Health Centre	Gloucester	Salaried GP	15 Jan 20	Open
Frampton Surgery	Frampton	Salaried GP	08 Jan 20	Open
Phoenix Health Group	Cirencester	Maternity Cover/Salaried GP	15 Jan 20	Open
Frithwood Surgery	Stroud	Practice Manager	15 Jan 20	Open
Stoke Road Surgery	Cheltenham	Salaried GP – 1 Year	16 Jan 20	Open
Stroud Valley Family Practice	Stroud	Retainer or Salaried GP	24 Jan 20	Open
Aspen Medical Centre	Gloucester	Saturday Morning Locum	29 Jan 20	Open
Yorkleigh Surgery	Cheltenham	GP Opportunities	05 Feb 20	Open
Yorkleigh Surgery	Cheltenham	Long Term Locum GP	28 Feb 20	Open
Corinthian Surgery	Cheltenham	Partner GP/Salaried GP	13 March 20	24 April 20
Corinthian Surgery	Cheltenham	Advanced Nurse Practitioner	13 March 20	24 April 20
ELSEWHERE				
Frome Valley Medical Centre	Frampton Cotterell	Salaried GP	08 Jan 20	Open
Frome Valley Medical Centre	Frampton Cotterell	GP Maternity Cover	15 Jan 20	Open
Frome Valley Medical Centre	Frampton Cotterell	Receptionist Maternity Cover	25 March 20	08 Apr 20
Air Balloon Surgery	Bristol	Associate (Salaried) GP or Associate with a view to Partnership	19 Feb 20	02 April 20

REMINDER: If you are advertising with us and fill the vacancy please let us know so we can take the advert down.