LMC Viewpoint

The newsletter of Leeds Local Medical Committee Limited
We support and protect General Practice to support and care for the people of Leeds

March 2026

National Update

GP Contract 2026/27

As you will be aware, the BMA has formally rejected the 2026/27 GP Contract following extensive concerns raised by GPs across England. The contract is widely considered insufficient to address the ongoing pressures on general practice, the escalating workload, and the unsustainable financial constraints facing practices.

A referendum on the new GP contract is now open to all GPs and GP registrars. The referendum closes on 25 March. Vote no if you reject the approach Government has taken for 2026/27. BMA members will have received an email from bma@cesvotes.com.

The final webinar to hear directly from GPCE officers about the 26/27 GP contract changes will take place on Wednesday 18 March 12-1:30pm. Anyone can view and join.

Neighbourhood Health: Preparing Ahead

The BMA has advised that general practice should not wait for the forthcoming neighbourhood health contracts, which are now likely to be delayed for at least another year. Instead, practices are encouraged to begin designing neighbourhood health approaches locally now, bringing together networks, practices and communities, to shape models of care that work for your populations.

The BMA has submitted written evidence to the Health and Social Care Select Committee inquiry into delivering the neighbourhood health service: estates inquiry. The submission outlined recommendations to ensure GP premises are supported to meet future patient need.

FREE Event This Week RCGP 10 Year Health Plan: Neighbourhood Health & what it means for General Practice

Thursday 19 March 6:30pm for a 7pm start at a venue close to Leeds train station
Free of charge and open to *all* GPs (including non-members) and GP registrars
Practice managers and nurses are welcome if attending alongside a GP. All attendees need to register on the RCGP events page in advance.

We are pleased to publicise this timely and highly relevant session hosted jointly by RCGP Yorkshire and Humber Faculties, focusing on what the 10 Year plan means for general practice, particularly the future development of neighbourhood health.
This is an excellent opportunity to understand how the 10-Year Plan will shape neighbourhood health, explore what's happening in the national neighbourhood pilots in West Yorkshire, ask questions and contribute to the discussion.

BMA guidance

Fees for safeguarding work

The BMA's Professional Fees Committee (PFC) has received legal confirmation from King's Counsel that safeguarding work is non-NHS contractual work. GPs must still meet their professional duty to contribute to provide safeguarding information, but on a paid basis agreed in advance of providing reports or attending conferences.
A BMA template letter is available to support practices to communicate this position to local authorities and other agencies. Practices should specify their fee and reference the Supply of Goods and Services Act.

Chaperone guidance
Concerns have been raised about NHSE's recent guidance on improving chaperoning practice in the NHS based on the GMC guidance on intimate examinations and chaperones. The BMA has previously identified this as a significant challenge for doctors. This is covered in the BMA's Core Ethics Guidance in Section 2.5

Refresh of the 'Pressures in General Practice' webpage
The BMA have produced a new webpage analysing the current state of general practice in England. It draws on the latest workforce and appointments statistics.

Pensions support
The BMA has launched its step-by-step campaign for members who want to get their pensions records up to date.

Online ESA113 form – fraud risk
The DWP has informed GPCE of the significant fraud risk associated with the online ESA113 form for healthcare professionals to fill in if DWP asks for information in connection with Employment and Support Allowance or Universal Credit). It will be removed from GOV.UK.

Improving the nation's diet: the impact of ultra-processed food
The BMA's report examines the consequences of harmful dietary patterns, including rising consumption of ultra processed foods and calls for measures to protect the health of the population.

Local update
GP Assembly
All GP practices and PCNs in Leeds are invited to register for the next face to face GP assembly on Wednesday 29 April 12:30- 4:30pm.

Mind the Gap – update
Leeds LMC are still working on closing local commissioning gaps. To support your patients, please see the "what to expect from your specialist appointment" information on our website and display our interface poster in your surgery and on your website.

Local template letters have been updated this month and are available on request from the LMC or through the new secure section button on the Leeds LMC website. The trusts have requested addition of the NHS number of the patient and the name of the clinician sending the letter.
Please continue to copy in the trust emails to any Mind the Gap letters sent: LTHT – leedsth-tr.refusals@nhs.net, LCH – lch.refusals@nhs.net, LYPFT – lypft.primarycare.refusals@nhs.net.

One Health Group prescribing update
Following the LMC meeting with One Health, the service has created a standard operating procedure and protocol for prescribing and have provided assurance that they will ensure all their clinicians are aware of the process.
If you are being asked to prescribe for One Health, please inform the LMC, sharing examples.

Local enhanced services (LES)
GPOP negotiations are ongoing. If you are involved in the discussions, please review the BMA list and contact us with your views on mail@leedslmc.org.

MindMate SPA update
Work to reduce referral handling time and improve pathway navigation will take place over 2026. The MindMate single point of access will transition to a new delivery model supported by increased

digitisation through Northpoint. The service will continue to operate using current processes for the time being.

Leeds Dementia Pathway

The LMC have been contributing to the ongoing review of the Leeds Dementia pathway. Please inform the LMC of any rejected referrals to the Elderly CMHT for patients 65+ with a known diagnosis of dementia. Please send the NHS number and a brief description of the scenario, so that we can pass this on.

Advice and Guidance

A reminder that amber medications require specialist initiation and regular specialist review. Advice and guidance responses should not include any recommendation to prescribe amber medications and patients taking amber medications should not be discharged from specialist care. Leeds LMC have requested a meeting with LYPFT to discuss this further.

In line with national requirements, from Monday 13 April, LTHT will be using the e-Referral (e-RS) service for Advice and Guidance requests, and the AccuRX email system will be decommissioned. Access to urgent advice e.g. primary care access line is unaffected.

St Gemma's Hospice Training opportunities

Training on advanced communication skills and half-day masterclasses on symptom management are running over the next year.

NASGP Locum Deck Leeds LMC would like to encourage practices to consider using NASGP Locum Deck to book locums. Book directly with the locum, no agency in the middle, no charge to practices.

Sessional GPs

BMA sessional GPs newsletter
News from the National Association of Sessional GPs

Resident Doctors

BMA Resident Doctors newsletter

GP Training

Thinking of becoming a training practice?

If your practice is interested in becoming a training practice see here for more information, then submit your initial application on PARE Apply to become a GP Trainer or Dental Educational Supervisor linking it to simon.hall21@nhs.net if in Leeds.

Appraisals

RCGP guidance on appraisals

Support and wellbeing

The BMA have launched the **GP support hub** - dedicated resources and support for GPs whether you are overstretched or struggling to find work.

A range of wellbeing and support services are available to doctors, and we encourage anybody who is feeling under strain to seek support, such as the BMA's counselling and peer support services, NHS practitioner health service and non-medical support services such as Samaritans. The organisation Doctors in Distress also provides mental health support for health workers in the

UK. We have produced a poster with 10 top tips to help support the wellbeing of you and your colleagues.
The Cameron Fund supports GPs and their families in times of financial need and the RCGP also has information on GP wellbeing support.
Visit the BMA's wellbeing support services page or call 0330 123 1245 for wellbeing support.

GPMplus

GPMplus Wellbeing Support Services and free mentoring.
Effective appraisals course Wednesday 18 March 12:30-2pm
Conflict on the frontline Thursday 19 March 9:30-11am
Team Leadership and engagement Wednesday 25 March 9:30 – 11:30am
New to General Practice Partnership Thursday 26 March 9:30-11:30am

Surveys

The BMA's survey highlighting the financial pressures facing GP practices will remain open on a rolling basis to develop a resource for GP contract consultations and negotiations. View key insights from the survey or add your contributions.

Independent review into mental health conditions, ADHD and autism

Add your thoughts and experiences to the national review regarding the diagnosis of mental health issues, specifically neurodiversity as promised by the Secretary of State for Health. Please email submissions to independentprevalencereview@dhsc.gov.uk.

Research

Breastfeeding Grief and Trauma

A King's College London-approved study is seeking GPs and other perinatal healthcare professionals to take part in a 20-25 minute anonymous online survey exploring awareness, perceptions and practice around breastfeeding grief and trauma. GP voices are currently under-represented, and the research aims to improve future emotional support for families experiencing breastfeeding-related loss or trauma. Take part here

BMA resources

The BMA's GP campaign webpage
GPCE Safe Working Guidance Handbook
Read more about the work of GPC England and practical guidance for GP practices
See the latest update on X @BMA_GP and read about BMA in the media.
GPCE Podcast and transcript

CURRENT KEY DISCUSSION AREAS BY THE LMC

- **Identifying Local Commissioning Gaps**
- **Advice and Guidance principles for Leeds**
- **Primary secondary care interface priorities for Leeds**
- **Development of a Leeds Provider Partnership – closer working between LYPFT and LCH**
- **Development of a Leeds GP Provider Collaborative board**
- **Feedback on the Leeds Community Diabetes Service**
- **General Practice Outcomes Programme (GPOP) negotiations for 2026 onwards**

GENERAL INFORMATION DISTRIBUTED TO PRACTICES THIS MONTH

Listed below is the information the LMC has sent to Practices recently. If for any reason you would like another copy and/or further information, please contact us.

- Local prescribing template letter v4
- Advice on the DSA

COMINGS AND GOINGS

Goodbye and best wishes to…

After 35 years of dedicated service, we are announcing the retirement of the wonderful Dr. Lesley Sunderland from The Street Lane Practice. As a cherished leader and a pillar of our team, Dr. Sunderland has earned the deep affection and respect of both her colleagues and her patients through her unwavering compassion and clinical excellence. Beyond the consultation room, she has been a true pioneer, driving the development of innovative healthcare services across the city. Her visionary leadership and warmth have shaped the very fabric of our practice, leaving behind a legacy of kindness and progress. While her presence in the corridors will be greatly missed, we are delighted to wish her a long, healthy and incredibly happy retirement. Thank you, Dr. Sunderland, for your years of devotion and for the lasting impact you have made on us all.

Practice vacancies at https://leedslmc.org/job-vacancies/

New useful documents on www.leedslmc.org with **Updates for Leeds practices on the secure section of Leeds LMC website**

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