

Tower Hamlets LMC News Update – February 2022

Chair: Dr Jackie Applebee

Vice Chair: Dr Emma Radcliffe

1. Welcome to new LMC members

Londonwide LMCs' election process is now complete and our new LMC members Ameen Kamlana, Sophie Osbourne and Gilur Rahman, Sapna Carrasco and Rachel McCredie, have joined our returning members for the two-year term.

2. Farewell to departing members

Tower Hamlets LMC said farewell to Dr Naomi Beer and Dr Sabir Zaman. We thank you for your many years of dedication and contributions to Tower Hamlets LMC and send our best wishes to you for the future.

3. Vaccination as a condition of deployment

VCOD is no longer being enforced. A policy change this week means that NHS England is asking practices **not to give notice of termination** to unvaccinated employees, pending a change in the legislation. The NHS England letter is available [here](#). Read a fuller update from Londonwide LMCs [here](#).

4. COVID Exemptions

There is an NHS process for Covid exemptions; the patient has an initial 119 discussion and (if it is thought they may be exempt) is given a form to send to the GP. The GP then reviews for a medical exemption and enters this on the SCR. See [Summary Care Record application \(SCRa\) COVID-19 Exemptions Information - NHS Digital](#).

There is a payment for this, which is for the work whether the GP deems the patient exempt or not. See [COVID-19 vaccination exemptions - COVID-19: toolkit for GPs and GP practices - BMA](#) for more details.

5. Unified GP Voice in Tower Hamlets

The LMC is working with the GP Care Group and the PCN CDs to establish a unified voice in Tower Hamlets, which will participate in local partnerships and contribute to the Integrated Care Partnerships borough-based boards within NEL ICS.

General practice in the borough is developing a Memorandum of Understanding to create an agreed framework for all parties to work together in relation to delivering integrated primary care, physical health, social care and mental health services.

The LMC last met on 18 January. Key items discussed at the meeting and news include:

1. Welcome
2. Farewell to departing members
3. Vaccination as a condition of deployment
4. COVID Exemptions
5. Unified GP Voice in Tower Hamlets
6. Income Protection
7. Advice and Guidance
8. BEAM App
9. Barts Health – GP pressures how we can help
10. NEL Integrated Care System
11. NEL LIS Equalisation Programme
12. Winter Access Fund
13. Your LMC and YOU

The next Tower Hamlets LMC meeting will be on Tuesday 8 March. If you wish to observe or to contact, or raise any matters with, the LMC please contact Ian Williamson by email ian.williamson@lmc.org.uk or telephone 07458 143 916.

Tower Hamlets LMC members

Dr Jackie Applebee (Chair)
Dr Emma Radcliffe (Vice Chair)
Dr Jaya Aiyengar
Dr Gemma Eyres
Dr Ameen Kamlana
Dr Sophie Osbourne
Dr Gilur Rahman
Dr Selva Selvarajah
Dr Archana Spahn
Dr Nirupam Talukder
Dr Naureen Bhatti
Sapna Carrasco, Practice Manager
Beverly Fernando, Practice Manager
Rachel McCredie, Practice Nurse

6. Income protection

The LIS/LES income protection arrangements will be in place until 31 March. Discussions are ongoing with the CCG but it is expected that LIS and LES monitoring and results-based payment will resume in the new financial year.

7. Advice & Guidance

A specification has been issued for Advice & Guidance. Londonwide LMCs has fed back on the spec and agreed with the CCG that there is no need for practices to fill out information about PCN governance arrangements.

Londonwide LMCs are also in discussions with Barts Health about their A&G policy. Concerns have been raised and the intention is to ensure the future rollout of services will have accompanying pathways with appropriate systems to assist.

8. BEAM App

Beam to LMC is a mobile app to help hard-pressed GPs and practice teams to highlight the pressure they are under from commissioners and others by taking control of their workload and sharing those requests in real time. Click on the link for more details to [Beam to LMC](#)

9. Barts Health – GP pressures and how we can help

The five NEL LMC Chairs recently wrote to acute trusts inviting mutual working to manage patient expectation. Professor Alistair Chesser, Group Chief Medical Officer has sent a statement to all Barts Health consultants to share understanding of general practice experiences and encouraging active support for GP colleagues.

10. NEL Integrated Care System

The North East London ICS is due to replace NEL CCG later this year, where local authorities, acute trusts and community providers will work together with primary care to provide health and care in local communities. The replacement date has recently been postponed from April to July. Tower Hamlets LMC recently heard that the programme is to continue on the planned timetable and shadow ICS bodies to operate in the extension period.

Zina Etheridge has been announced as the ICS Chief Executive and further appointments are expected as the ICS begins to take shape.

Partnerships and boards are being established at NEL level, which will include the three sub-systems: Tower Hamlets, Newham and Waltham Forest (TNW); Barking, Havering and Redbridge (BHR); and City & Hackney. The LMC is working to secure a strong place for general practice in these emerging structures.

GP Support

The GP Support Team are here to provide advice and support to any practice or individual GP.

To raise any confidential matters regarding your practice contact GPSupport@lmc.org.uk or visit their page on our [website](#) for further contact details.

LEAD Events

Londonwide Enterprise Ltd (LEL) was set up to provide affordable, high quality training and educational events for practice teams.

The Learning Education and Development (LEAD) team is always keen to hear what training is really needed on the ground – get in touch with any ideas by emailing lead@lmc.org.uk

Upcoming Events:

Managing Patient Conflict Part 2 – Secondary Intervention
10.00am to 12.00pm Tuesday 15 February 2022

Owning your practice premises - The essentials
1.30pm to 4.30pm Thursday 24 February 2022

Managing Patient Conflict Part 3 - Tertiary Interventions
10.00am to 12.00pm Tuesday 15 March 2022

Cytology Update
9.30am to 1.45pm Thursday 17 March 2022

For more information and more events, visit the [LEAD page](#).

11. NEL LIS Equalisation Programme

North East London ICS will be seeking to equalise the funding for around 150 LIS schemes across NEL, which will be reviewed over a three-year programme, and prioritised by local need.

Safeguarding, phlebotomy and the duty doctor scheme are the first three services to be looked at and will be followed by mental health and diabetes. Each review will be carried out by a task and finish group with LMC representation.

12. Winter Access Fund

Practices identified as being in the bottom 20% of access data will be asked to discuss this with the CCG with a view to supporting improvement; the LMC has secured agreement that an LMC representative can attend these meetings. Londonwide LMCs is also in discussions with the CCG about issues with the data overall.

There is another element of the Winter Access Fund available to any practice, conditional on participation in the Community Pharmacy Consultation Scheme and increasing access. This money is paid in arrears if compliance with the conditions is demonstrated after the additional work has been done; Londonwide LMCs has advised practices to consider carefully the details of the scheme before signing up. The CCG is still approaching practices that have not yet said whether they are interested.

13. Your LMC and YOU

We now have a newly-elected LMC keen to connect with GPs across the area. As a local GP you have a unique insight into General Practice in your neighbourhood.

Working in General Practice is harder than ever; we have all suffered stress, strain and loss in recent times. However, there is no-one better suited than grass-roots GPs to highlight the pressures on our practices, patients and colleagues. Together we can continue to find solutions, to safeguard our profession.

We urge you to get in touch with any of the LMC members or other contacts in this newsletter to give your views on matters of concern to you and your practice.

You are also welcome to observe an LMC meeting. Meetings are currently held online with the dates listed below. Please feel free to contact us if you would like to come along.

England LMC Conference

Thursday/Friday 24 and 15 November

Here is a sample of resolutions from the recent England LMC Conference:

NHSE Access Plan

That conference rejects the NHSE plan for improve access for patients supporting general practice published on 14th October 2021, will not accept the money and will not comply with the stipulations therein.

Proposed by Jackie Applebee, Tower Hamlets
Carried

Integrated Care Systems (ICS)

That conference recognised that GP representation in the new Integrated Care Systems is unclear and variable and demands that GPC England negotiate with NHSEI that:

- (i) all Integrated Care Systems should outline how they will enable LMCs to carry out their statutory role
- (ii) there should be no mandated limit on the number of general practice representatives on both NHS and Place Boards and general practice alone should decide who represents them within an ICS
- (iii) national funding for GPs roles in system and place leadership be made available
- (iv) funding must be ring fenced for enhanced services that are currently commissioned from general practice through locally commissioned services
- (v) where collaboration and streamlining of pathways involves work transferring to general practice from secondary care, funding and resource follows from funding previously aligned to secondary care budgets.

Proposed by David Herold, Worcestershire

Carried

Tower Hamlets LMC Team

Dr Jackie Applebee, Chair, Tower Hamlets LMC
Dr Emma Radcliffe, Vice Chair, Tower Hamlets LMC
[Dr Elliott Singer](#) – Medical Director
[Greg Cairns](#) – Director of Primary Care
[Shabnam Quraishi](#) – Associate Medical Director
[Wendy Walker](#) – Assistant Director of Primary Care
[Ian Williamson](#) – Committee Liaison Executive

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Disclaimer: This publication is written for healthcare professionals in Tower Hamlets and information may not be appropriate for use elsewhere. Editorial comments do not necessarily represent the views of the LMC.

Tower Hamlets Local Medical Committee, Londonwide LMCs, Tavistock House, Tavistock Square, LONDON WC1H 9HX.

Dates of future meetings:

Tuesday 8 March
Tuesday 10 May
Tuesday 5 July
Tuesday 13 September
Tuesday 18 November