**SLMC Update – June 2018**

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# Negotiating issues and contracts

## Contract Implementation

The Regulations for the new GP Contract were signed off by the Cabinet Secretary on 14 February 2018 and laid in Parliament on 19 February 2018. Every practice has received a notice variation letter along with information on the 17j and 17c Regulations.

The new contract came into force on 1 April 2018. The Regulations, Statement of Financial Entitlements, Directions, Memorandum of Understanding and other contract documentation, along with guidance documents, are available on the BMA website: <https://www.bma.org.uk/collective-voice/committees/general-practitioners-committee/gpc-scotland/gp-contract-agreement-scotland>

Meetings between SGPC and Scottish Government are ongoing with a focus on implementation of the contract, agreeing Directions, producing accompanying guidance documentation, and beginning the development of phase two. A variety of Short Life Working Groups have been established to focus on different aspects of implementation, these include the OOH SLWG, Premises SLWG and Remote and Rural SLWG.

## Funding

A letter will shortly be sent out to NHS boards by Scottish Government regarding the available funding for Health Boards next year, and how this should be spent. This is a normal process between government and Boards. This will include information about the monies to be spent ‘in direct support of general practice’ including the monies which make up the PCIF (Primary Care Improvement Fund). There will be a separate letter outlining more specifically the funding ‘in direct support of general practice’. The letter will also be clear about the need for agreement with the LMC on spending of the PCIF.

## GMS Implementation and Primary Care Development Oversight Group

A GMS Implementation and primary care development oversight group has been established with the remit of ensuring that funds allocated are being spent for contract implementation in agreement with local LMCs. Any decision on appropriateness of the use of these funds will be agreed at the National SGMS Oversight Group and ultimately, if necessary, between the negotiating teams. This group will have representation from chief executive officers, chief executives, SGPC negotiators and Scottish Government to oversee the implementation of the contract and use of PCIF and will be in involved at a local level. The group had its first meeting to discuss the terms of reference and remit on 24 April.

## GP Subcommittee

A proposal is being discussed with Scottish Government with the intention that funding is allocated to GP Subcommittees to support them to take on their new role and to fully engage in the implementation of the new contract. This funding would be in addition to current funds. Once agreed with Scottish Government the funding will be allocated to GP Subcommittees.

# Workforce

## National Workforce Plan

The Scottish Government’s *National Health and Social Care Workforce Plan: Part 3 Primary Care* set out plans for the development and training of GPs and the wider primary care multi-disciplinary team. The plan was published on 30 April 2018: <http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0053/00534821.pdf>. BMA Scotland have provided a response which can be found here: <https://www.bma.org.uk/news/media-centre/press-releases/2018/april/bma-scotland-response-to-primary-care-workforce-plan>

## GP Vacancy Survey

The GP Vacancy survey was sent out on 1 June with a request that responses be provided by 15 June. We would like to encourage practices within your LMC area to complete this, please find a link to the survey here: [https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/Z92NCV2](https://emea01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.surveymonkey.co.uk%2Fr%2FZ92NCV2&data=01%7C01%7CAMa%40bma.org.uk%7C70f3c32a9a4a486c7f1f08d5c7bc0c7d%7Cbf448ebee65f40e69e3133fdaa412880%7C0&sdata=5lAAhCNE08wpUnDiRTnfxoUvQ%2By6Hk38PhZestZclRU%3D&reserved=0) . With your help we have consistently had more than 500 responses to each survey.  This level of response means that more than 50% of practices in Scotland are taking part and the data can usefully be used to look at trends and draw conclusions.  The data from these surveys enables us to build a picture of the recruitment pressures facing practices across Scotland.

# Information Management and Technology

## IT Update

The general IT groups are progressing slowly. GPIT Re-provisioning is progressing with new timeframes and a plan to sign off in June 2018. There are SPIRE issues in various boards due to upgrades and servers.

A Community Care IT Portfolio Management Group had been established with a remit to provide formal governance for developing IT in community healthcare. The group met on 17 April and discussed the future of primary care service redesign in supporting service redesign in the GMS contract and MoU, and understanding the needs of users of GP IT. A paper has been written to propose comprehensive research into the needs of users of GP IT with the intention that Scottish Government will use the results to provide better support to users.

A Joint GP IT Committee for Scotland is being set up with representation from SGPC, RCGP and Scottish Government. RCGP are currently recruiting a Clinical IT Lead who will be the co-chair of the group along with an SGPC representative. The remit of the group would be to provide a coordinated joint approach to GP information management and communications technologies projects within the NHS and provide guidance on GP IM&T matters.

## General Data Protection Regulation

The GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation), a new, Europe-wide law that replaces the Data Protection Act 1998 in the UK, will apply from 25 May 2018. The GDPR sets out requirements for how organisations will need to handle personal data. More information on the GDPR is available via the [UK Information Commissioner’s Office](https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/guide-to-the-general-data-protection-regulation-gdpr). The UK ICO has also put together an [FAQ document](https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/health/health-gdpr-faqs/) for ‘small health sector bodies’ which may be helpful.

The BMA has put together UK guidance which was published in March 2018. <https://www.bma.org.uk/advice/employment/ethics/confidentiality-and-health-records/gps-as-data-controllers>.

# For information

## Increasing Undergraduate Education in Primary Care

This group has been established to investigate the possibility and practicality of increasing the proportion of undergraduate medical training spent in general practice. The group met on 28 March 2018 and discussed a literature review outlining the impact on medical students of good experiences in GP placements, including positive role models, and their choice to choose GP as a career. The group is chaired by Dr John Gillies.

## SLMC Secretaries Meeting

The SLMC secretaries had a meeting on 18 April 2018, where the following topics were discussed in more detail: contract update, primary care fund, GP subcommittee support, GDPR, implementation plans, SLMC conference, coaching proposal, Duty of Candour, and local issues. A meeting has been scheduled for 21 June 2018 to support LMCs and GP subcommittees with the implementation of the new contract and their implementation plans.

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| **LMCs are reminded they can contact Andrea Ma, SGPC secretariat for more information on any of these issues (**ama@bma.org.uk**).****Any emails for the SGPC negotiating team should be submitted to** info.gpscotland@bma.org.uk **your ideas about achievable measures to reduce pressure on general practice are always welcome. We can’t respond to every email but all emails are read and considered by the team.** |