



Communique

The newsletter of the GPDF
Issue 5 | March 2020

Motions at LMC England Conference, November 2019

A number of motions were submitted to the Agenda Committee of the England LMC conference held in November 2019 in London.

Only one of the following motions was debated and passed by conference, but GPDF considers it appropriate to make observations on all of the proposed motions, in order to share its understanding on the issues.

This motion was debated and **passed** at conference

HERTFORDSHIRE:

“That conference wishes to give GPDF the mandate on behalf of England LMCs to use its reserves to provide ring-fenced funding to LMCs for the significant but vital extra work that they are being required to do, supporting the establishment and work of PCNs.”

GPDF observations:

- A rebate of almost £1M from the GPDF 2019 quota was shared across all LMCs towards the end of 2019. LMCs are free to use these funds as they see fit, which could include funding issues related to PCNs.
- GPDF funded the cost of one ticket for each LMC to enable them to attend the BMA /PCN Conference on 8th February.
- While this motion was passed at conference, the lack of specific detail makes it difficult for the GPDF to understand the scale of funding or commitment suggested by Hertfordshire and therefore further information would be required to allow the GPDF to consider this request.

The following motions **were not debated** at conference

CAMBRIDGESHIRE:

“That conference recognises the work of the BMA with the consultants committee in developing a ‘pensions calculator’ tool, and the challenges of delivering an equivalent for the CARE pensions of GPs and calls upon GPDF to supplement the BMA’s project to expedite delivery of an equivalent tool to be made available for England’s GPs as soon as is feasible.”

GPDF observations:

- GPDF have had discussion with BMA on this matter. BMA have advised that there is no requirement for GPDF funding at this time.



CAMBRIDGESHIRE:

"That conference applauds, and recognises the importance of the GPDF commitment to be more transparent, accountable and representative of the profession, and calls for the England LMCs to:

- i. actively encourage nominees from our diverse and mixed profession to stand for election to the GPDF board when positions arise
- ii. provide a steer to GPDF in pressing for greater transparency regarding reimbursement and remuneration of GPDF board members
- iii. remind GPDF of the Task Group recommendations from 2016 to be enacted in full."

GPDF observations:

- GPDF thanks Cambridgeshire for the recognition of its recent efforts on transparency, accountability and representation.
- The January GPDF Newsletter called for individuals to consider standing in the elections to the GPDF Board later this year.
- Any suggestions for greater transparency are welcome. Full details of payments to Directors have been published and are available on the GPDF website. For information click [here](#)
- GPDF and BMA are currently engaged in a review project which is planned to address any issues from the Meldrum report not yet actioned.

MANCHESTER:

"That conference agrees a working group should be established to:

- i. investigate whether GPDF Ltd is delivering value for money to LMCs and GPs
- ii. provide a report to an extraordinary general meeting to be held during the UK Conference of LMCs in 2021"

GPDF observations:

- Delivering value for money is a central aim of GPDF. This includes both in the running of GPDF and in the use of the money provided by GPDF to others.
- GPDF has become an increasingly transparent organisation over the last 2 years and is open to further suggestions from LMCs as to how it might demonstrate value for money and accountability across its activity.
- GPDF intends to commission an independent survey of views during 2020. This would be published and available to all interested parties.

MANCHESTER:

"That conference is extremely concerned that NHS general practice is suffering an unmanageable surge in demand and instructs GPDF Ltd to initiate a deep and sustained defence of general practice in the form of a public education campaign."

GPDF observations:

- This nature of 'campaigning activity' has not been the role of GPDF in the past, but should other organisations including the BMA and the RCGP hold the view that a united and collective campaign would be beneficial to general practice, and if it was the wish of LMCs for GPDF funds to be used in this way, the GPDF would give this suggestion consideration.
- Detailed development work would be required to establish the nature, scope, aims, objectives and costs of a campaign.



NORTHUMBERLAND:

“The current role of the GPDF in relation to the BMA is unclear, and confusing to the primary care community. Conference demands that:

- i. there is a full explanation and clarification of organisational roles.
- ii. the added value of the GPDF is transparent.
- iii. that a justification is provided for the additional cost pressure on practices of the voluntary levy which equates to a ‘tax on partners’.”

GPDF observations:

- The role and remit of GPDF is clearly set out within the GPDF website.
- A short document for GPs and LMCs has been created to set out the justification for the contribution to benefit ALL GPs across England, Scotland and Wales. This is titled - ‘Why pay the levy’. This is available on the GPDF website.
- It is for the BMA and GPC to set out their role and remit.

ROCHDALE AND BURY:

“This conference seeks more openness and transparency on how GPDF awards board and staff salaries.”

GPDF observations:

- The GPDF Board is in the process of setting up an independent Remuneration Committee chaired by a senior, experienced non-medical individual, supported by 2 individuals from LMCs. None of these individuals will be drawn from the Board or from the members of the company (nominees of LMCs) and will be completely independent. One of their duties will be to recommend levels of payment for the Directors and GPDF staff. Recruitment is underway and appointments to this committee are anticipated in the next few months.



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www.gpdf.org.uk
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GPDF engagement

For any matter regarding the role/remit of GPDF or engagement of GPDF with other organisations.

Dougy Moederle-Lumb: Chair of GPDF

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GPDF policy regarding honoraria payments or expenses payment

For any matter related to GPDF policy regarding honoraria or expenses payment, and issues related to requests for legal support.

John Canning: Director of Operations

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GPDF Membership

For any matter related to GPDF Membership, Articles of Association or Governance structure.

Hugh Christie: Company Secretary

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