

Communique

The newsletter of the GPDF

May 2021



The challenges for the future

At the LMC Secretaries conference in March this year Dr Dougy Moederle-Lumb, Executive Chair, of GPDF Limited, highlighted some of the questions which will face LMCs and general practice in the coming months and years. Some of the questions he posed included...

- “Will the contractor model of general practice survive?”
- “Is the future a fully salaried service?”
- “Will we have a model of general practice that encourages partnership at scale with fewer partners and mostly salaried GPs?”

And specifically in relation to LMCs...

- “Will LMCs be needed or viable?”
- “Do LMCs need to change?”
- “What is a successful LMC? How do we judge success? What benchmarks are used if any?”
- “What about equality of opportunity within LMCs including diversity and contractual status?”
- “What standard of service should constituent GPs expect from LMCs?”
- “Are larger LMCs or consortia able to offer more than smaller LMCs or is this a fallacy?”
- “How do we encourage and support cross boundary collaboration? Do we need to?”
- “Can every LMC offer every service?”
- “Are we reinventing the wheel in over a hundred separate organisations?”
- “Do LMC Leaders near to retirement have a succession plan?”
- “Do we fear predation or possibly carry the baggage of old rivalries? How might things be different?”
- “Are we all doomed, or could this be a period of real opportunity?”
- “How can the collective voice of LMCs become respected and valued within the new proposed NHS architecture?”

GPDF does not have ready-made answers to these difficult questions, and in our view, it is not for any organisation to ‘tell LMCs’ how it should be. GPDF can however help facilitate discussions and coordinate activity to inform some of the possible answers.

With that in mind, GPDF have commissioned Dennis Sherwood, a highly experienced innovation consultant, with extensive experience in the Health sector to review these issues in the context of the current evolution of Health services across England, Scotland and Wales.

A series of consultation workshops with LMCs are planned by Dennis to take place in the coming months. If you would like to register your interest to take part in one of these workshop sessions, please email your details to mail@gpdf.org.uk.

LMC Conference 2021

Several motions relating to the GPDF were passed at the LMC Conference held virtually on 11 and 12 May. The first one (item 14) called on the GPDF to commission a thorough review of the current representative structure, particularly seeking the views of LMCs.

As the GPDF Chair pointed out in the statement provided to the conference any review carried out by the GPDF will be thorough and include all elements of the current structure as well as being independent. Such a review is unlikely to be inexpensive, and will take some time to complete; it will include ascertaining the views not only of LMCs and the BMA, but may extend to GPs and other stakeholders. The report on the review will necessarily set out its conclusions and, where appropriate, include proposals for change.

It is too early to give an idea about when a final report will be published, but when it is it will be made widely available to LMCs and other stakeholders.

Other motions passed at conference called on the GPDF to undertake work in various areas including different models of provision, ListServers and workforce; as it is clear from the motions that these will require working with colleagues on the GPC(s) we are meeting with the BMA and its GPCs.

We will keep you updated as these workstreams progress and we hope that you will responded fully and clearly when your views are sought.

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A conversation with GPDF

Over the last few months, we have undertaken a series of informal meetings to enable thoughts, views, priorities, and concerns to be discussed openly and honestly between representatives of LMCs and the Board and management team of GPDF.

These sessions are extremely valuable to us and thanks to all who took part.

As the lockdown slowly allows a return to physical meetings, we would like to meet with Regional LMCs or, where they are not in place, groups of LMCs in a region to continue the conversation and discuss the role LMCs feel that GPDF has in strengthening the voice of LMCs in a changing environment.

If you would like to arrange for the GPDF to visit your area please email mail@gpdf.org.uk with the dates when it would be possible to meet and we will do our best to be there. Perhaps you will be kind enough to say which LMCs would intend to join the meeting.

Elections to the GPDF Board

There will be elections to the Board in September this year. The Nominees from each LMC to GPDF is entitled to stand for election to the Board, and we would like to encourage a wide and diverse range of candidates to stand. It is up to the LMC electorate to choose the elected members of the GPDF Board, so please consider who should be your Nominee and please encourage them to consider standing for the election.

Details and responsibilities of GPDF Directors can be found on the GPDF website. <https://www.gpdf.org.uk/library/gpdf-being-a-director/>

If you would like to register your interest and have an informal discussion related to the role and commitment please email Dougy Moederle-Lumb, chair@gpdf.org.uk or Hugh Christie, Company Secretary cosec@gpdf.org.uk.

Suspension

Following a decision by the majority of LMCs, Manchester LMC and Rochdale & Bury LMC have been suspended from membership of GPDF Limited due to unpaid quota payments. Should they remit the unpaid funds or reach an agreement with GPDF over previous non-remittances, the suspension would be lifted with immediate effect.

Dates for your Diary

- Wales LMC Conference – 20th November (format tba)
- England LMC Conference – 26th November (format tba)
- Scotland LMC Conference – 2nd/3rd December (2nd only if needed – format tba)

The Annual General Meeting of the GPDF will be held on 10th September 2021, with the format to be advised.

Sign up to our database

We always try to ensure we reach as many people within LMCs as possible with information and news, and to invite them to participate in consultations. If you would like to be kept up to date and are not already on the database, please email marion@jral.co.uk to be added to the GPDF contact database.

Funding for LMC initiatives

GPDF welcomes applications from LMCs for funding related to ideas, initiatives or projects which would have widespread benefit to the LMC community (i.e. not just a single LMC). Projects which include collaboration across multiple LMCs are particularly welcome. Informal guidance & feedback on the likelihood of obtaining funding can be obtained prior to writing a detailed proposal. More details regarding the criteria for project support and informal feedback can be obtained from John Canning, Director of Operations, doos@gpdf.org.uk.

GPDF is very keen to support LMCs and share/spread good practice and ideas – so please come forward with your suggestions.



Contact us

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

Dougy Moederle-Lumb: *Chair of GPDF*
chair@gpdf.org.uk

GPDF policy regarding the annual quota, payments of various kinds and any matter related to requests for legal support.

John Canning: *Director of Operations*
doo@gpdf.org.uk

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

Hugh Christie: *Company Secretary*
cosec@gpdf.org.uk

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