

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.