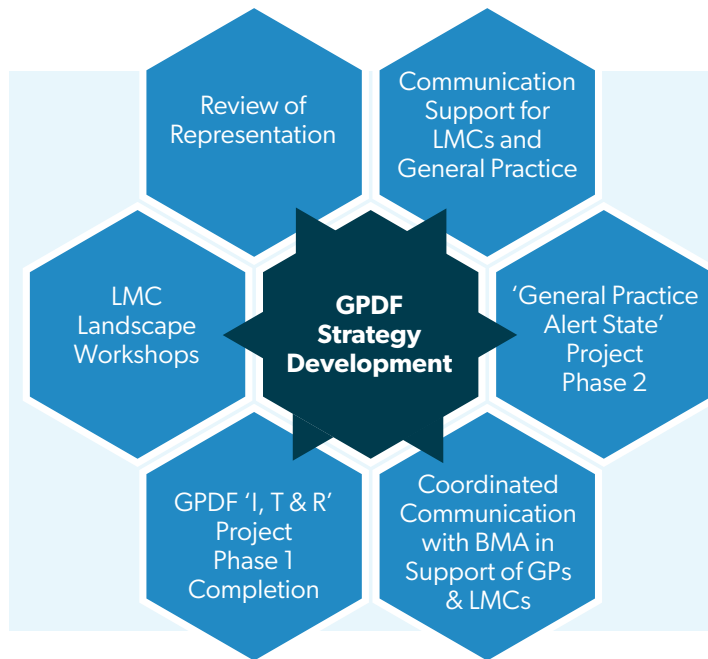


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GPDF Strategy Development

Over the last few months, the GPDF Management Team has been working to develop a detailed document which clarifies the organisation's strategic aims, sets out clear objectives and determines how the actions will be evaluated. This was presented to the GPDF Board at its October meeting and is expected to be formally adopted at its December 2021 meeting.

This strategy is central to the successful delivery of multiple actions and initiatives over the next three or four years. Once approved by the Board an executive summary of the strategy will be shared with all LMCs.

National Association of Local Medical Committees

The strategy will address how a National Association of Local Medical Committees might be established in order to give LMCs a stronger, coordinated voice on behalf of general practice across the health sector/NHS, the political landscape and with the general public. A series of developmental workshops sessions on this topic are planned in the coming weeks. A limited company, "National Association of Local Medical Committees Limited", was established by the GPDF to safeguard the name for future use.

LMC ListServer

Another strand of consultation has gathered views and opinions in relation to the LMC ListServer currently operated/managed by the BMA. It is a widely held view that LMCs wish to see change and improvement to the current approach. Many within LMCs are choosing not to engage on the LMC ListServer and consider it to be 'toxic.' The GPDF intends to engage with the BMA to discuss a number of potential adjustments to seek improvement and broader engagement across all LMCs.

Communication support for LMCs and general practice

We are all very aware of the media coverage which, at this most challenging time, has sought to downplay the hard work of GPs and their contribution to safeguarding the health of their communities.

The GPDF has had discussions with several LMCs across the country to better understand the nature of support and assistance which would be of greatest benefit. Following the initial consultations, a concise survey was conducted to establish the extent to which the suggested items would be useful to LMCs across England, Scotland, and Wales.

The resulting list is now under review to establish the practicalities and costs to deliver these initiatives, and action on this is anticipated as soon as possible. This will enable LMCs to carry-out local press and media communications activity in support of their local GPs.

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Review of Representation

The 2021 UK conference of LMCs passed a motion requesting the GPDF to commission a thorough review of representation for general practice. To begin this review, the GPDF management team held a series of discussions in order to gain a greater understanding of what should be included within the scope of the review, as this was not apparent from the motion itself. Within the last few weeks, a consultation survey which included a number of questions related to representation was completed. With these initial phases now completed and, based on the information gleaned, a comprehensive set of recommendations as to the next phases of the review will be presented to the Board of the GPDF at its next meeting. Further reports on progress with the review activity will be circulated in the coming months.

Coordinated communication with BMA in support of GPs and LMCs.

The GPDF has been approached by the BMA to join a coordinated national PR/Communications campaign in support of GPs. Cost estimates are being sought from professional communication agencies with the skills and resources to manage a significant publicity campaign. The aim is to address the recent communication imbalance which has occurred, led by some national press and on social media. More details of this activity will be available before too long.

LMC 'landscape' workshops

A series of workshops are being held this month to stimulate discussion and debate on the impact of ICSs on LMCs in England and the Feeley report in Scotland and based on a study which has been commissioned by the GPDF.

The sessions will be led by the highly experienced management consultant Dennis Sherwood, who will present his pictorial representation of what the future healthcare 'landscape' might look like from the perspective of an LMC. The aim is to help LMCs 'navigate the future' by the most positive, constructive, and effective 'route.'

The GPDF 'Induction, Training and Reference' project

Phase 1 of this project has been completed by a LMC group led by Lancashire & Cumbria Consortium of LMCs and Nottinghamshire LMC, supported by a reference group from a number of LMCs across England, Scotland, and Wales. Their proposals are based on research carried out through surveys and discussion with the project team and reference group. It is intended that the various the products will be developed to support the needs of elected LMC Officers and Senior Staff across five areas:

- > An induction framework and package for LMCs to tailor to their local circumstances.
- > A platform and dynamic content of reference material.
- > A professional development framework within which LMCs can assess and meet the development needs of their officers and staff to meet their LMC objectives
- > A Training Portfolio with content to meet the identified training needs of officers and staff
 - a) "accredited" subject-specific courses of external providers
 - b) Self-help mutual training support between LMCs using "experts" within the LMC community
- > A framework for a network of mentoring/ buddying / coaching support

The report of the project team has been received by the GPDF and the next steps and actions will be announced in due course.

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The General Practice Alert System

Devon LMC has developed a bespoke 'General practice Alert System' (GPAS) to provide clear evidence of manpower pressure on practices, thus enabling LMCs to bring support quickly to practices under the greatest pressure. The system can categorise practices to be running at Green, Amber 1, Amber 2, Red and Black, with defined levels of response identified at each level. The GPDF has committed to fund phase 2 of the project and support the roll-out of this initiative to all LMCs that wish to adopt this system.

The system has been operational in Devon for a number of months and has had a tangible impact and positive engagement with CCGs in reacting quickly to critical situations and finding ways to plan ahead more effectively. More information will be available as soon as possible.

Consultation with LMCs

As mentioned earlier in this Newsletter a consultation survey was conducted in late October to gather LMC opinions and views on a range of topics. These topics were identified at a recent online discussion chaired by Katie Bramall-Stainer at the request of the GPDF.

The scope of the survey was broad ranging and included a number of different issues including recent Media coverage, perceptions related to pressures on general practice, representation by and interaction with GPC/BMA, and views in relation to the ListServer.

'Listening' to this feedback from LMCs is extremely valuable in assisting the GPDF to appropriately 'Support' LMCs, and 'Influence' on behalf of LMCs.

Contact us

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

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