

Communique

The newsletter of the GPDF

June 2022



Review of representative structures

At the Annual Conference of Representatives of UK LMCs in May 2021, GPDF was asked to commission a review of representative structures.

We commissioned **Ijeoma Omambala QC**, to lead the independent review supported by consultation specialists and a legal support team, to enable her to deliver her report ahead of the Conference in May 2022. This fulfilled the task GPDF had been given and the Conference has been provided with a series of options to consider. You can find the report on our website via this link - <https://www.gpdf.org.uk/gpdf-news/>

It will be for LMCs and Conference Agenda Committees to decide any follow-up or further action, but we anticipate that these matters will be discussed at the forthcoming England, Scotland and Wales conferences.

National Association of LMCs

To date there have been three phases of consultation by GPDF including surveys and workshops to allow LMC to share their views and opinions on the possible formation of a National Association of LMCs.

One fundamental aspect of the views expressed by LMCs is that any National Association would not seek to represent GPs, but rather would seek to represent and support LMCs.

During the recent themed debate at the Annual Conference of Representatives of UK LMCs there was a frequently voiced perception that this issue is an 'England only' matter and linked to GP representation, when this is fundamentally NOT the intention. Should LMCs consider that a National Association is desired, it would seek to support LMCs in England, Scotland and Wales, and it is important to restate that GPDF will abide by the majority view expressed in each nation.

The team at GPDF has started working on the details of costed options to allow LMCs to make a considered and informed decision on whether a National Association of LMCs would be an appropriate development.

You can see the findings of the last consultation here: <https://www.gpdf.org.uk/gpdf-news/>



Rebuild General Practice: campaign

The **joint PR Campaign** in support of general practice which GPDF has funded in conjunction with the BMA has seen a number of successes. The overarching aim has been to reorientate the negative media coverage, and the lack of understanding of the issues amongst politicians, the media, and the general public in relation to the realities of the challenges facing GPs.

There were three workstreams to the programme of activity:

A Media based campaign including a series of high-level briefing meetings with all the key media editors and health correspondents of the National Press, News Websites and Broadcasters. These meetings were arranged to allow front-line GPs to engage directly with the media in order to give their perspective of the reality of general practice.

A specific workstream which related to **'LMC Engagement'** was fully funded by GPDF alone. This gave every LMC in England, Scotland, and Wales the resources and guidance to be able to engage with local media in their area and provide campaign resources to their GPs. Template press releases and a media training guide were included as well as digital material – all in a bespoke 'tool-kit' specifically for LMCs to use.

The third element which is being funded by the BMA on behalf of GPC England relates to a programme of **Political engagement** with Government Ministers and MPs and officials focused specifically to England.

Thanks to all the LMCs who have engaged with the campaign and to the many GPs who have taken part in interviews and media/politician briefing events. The final activation is a 'drop-in' event for MPs at Westminster on Wednesday 15th June.

We plan to ask LMCs their views on the campaign as part of the evaluation activity so please watch out for the questionnaire.

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South Yorkshire LMC group project

Report from Dr Clare Bannon, Medical Secretary, Barnsley LMC

In June 2021 the four LMCs in South Yorkshire, Barnsley, Doncaster, Sheffield and Rotherham, decided that they would like to formalise a SYLMC group. Prior to that the four LMCs met on an informal basis but had never agreed on any more formal structure or ways of working. We knew we needed support in this process so approached GPDF consider funding a project to form a new alliance. We hoped the learning from our experience could be shared if other groups of LMCs wanted to follow a similar process. After presenting our proposal and several discussions they agreed in principle, and we spoke to a few companies that specialise in NHS transformation and appointed 'TU' to run the project.

The project ran in two phases, the first was to engage with key stakeholders to understand the current situation and preferences for how a new operating model should function. Different models, that are currently in place across the country were reviewed, from LMCs, PCNs and Federations. Based on the Key objectives and requirements identified, an Options Specification was developed detailing the critical success factors for the new model to succeed. A workshop was held with the four LMCs to review and negotiate the different models, allowing for some differences in appetite for change. The models offer flexibility to grow and invest, as the regional and national landscape with the ICS and other organisations changes. At the end of phase 1 we had agreed a model recognising the need for a stronger, unified SYLMC voice with the ability to represent at South Yorkshire level whilst retaining an identity at place.

During phase 2, TU supported the LMCs to ensure delivery of its objectives and subsequently 'The Association of South Yorkshire LMCs' was developed. A workshop was held to tackle key communication challenges, and clarify administration needs, which was successful in embedding clearer communication methods. During this phase a MOU and TOR between the four LMCs was developed as well as branding for the Association and a simple website. We also developed a web platform for information and document sharing.

Throughout the project we updated GPDF with our progress and on the 23rd of May they attended the Launch of 'The Association of South Yorkshire LMCs'. The Medical Director and CEO of South Yorkshire ICS also attended, which proved to be a valuable opportunity, to discuss the important role of LMCs going forward in the new NHS structures. We are grateful to GPDF for the funding the project to allow SYLMCs to move forward.

The 'evolving landscape' for LMCs

Many of you will be aware of the 'evolving LMC landscape' project that GPDF commissioned, and you may have attended one of the sessions facilitated by the experienced strategist and author Dennis Sherwood.

Using 'systems thinking' these workshops have been very popular with many LMCs, thus enabling them to look at the wider context of where LMCs fit within the broader health landscape and the influences upon them.

Angela Foulston of YORLMC Ltd, commented

"Following the LMC Secretaries conference in March, we invited Dennis Sherwood to run a systems thinking workshop for our LMC and a number of neighbouring LMCs.

Not only did Dennis' style provide a safe space for discussion, but his presentation also provided the stimulus for conversation between the LMCs about the steps they needed to consider individually and together in a rapidly changing landscape. It has altered the perspective and encouraged the LMCs to try and consider a medium to long term future that will allow them to develop and grow, thus providing an improved offer to constituents. The session also aided the LMCs in being more outward looking and collaborative with a desire to work alongside each other as well as considering what more can be done to improve the future further. There was a real desire to collaborate and learn from each other and especially how better to understand and overcome the challenges LMCs face. Dennis' systems thinking presentation is very effective in highlighting the challenges LMCs face.

Key outcomes therefore are a commitment to develop and grow the LMC services offered and for closer working in order to strengthen GP representation across the system the LMCs work in.

Importantly the workshop allowed the LMCs time together to consider the value of mutual and consistent support and a follow up workshop will take place in the coming weeks."

GPDF would be happy to support groups, whether already established or not, of neighbouring LMCs who would like to hold a meeting with Dennis to explore these challenges. [Please email do@pdf.org.uk](mailto:do@pdf.org.uk) to discuss how we can support your group.

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LMC Directory of Contacts

It is very important that GPDF can communicate and consult with individuals within LMCs to ensure that we act in line with the wishes of the majority. Keeping mailing lists up to date is a challenge for all organisations and GPDF wishes to create an up-to-date resource.

Therefore, we be launching a drive to gather a comprehensive directory of contact information of LMC offices and Office Bearers for use by GPDF. This will not be published or publicly available.

A list of LMC office/enquiry email addresses is planned to be published on the GPDF website.

A link to an online form will be sent to all LMC Nominees and LMC Office email addresses in the coming weeks, and your cooperation to provide the information will be very much appreciated.

Survey of LMC Salary Levels

The second annual independent survey of LMC Salary levels has just been completed at the request of the GPDF Remuneration Committee. Thanks to all LMCs that participated and provided information which will be fully anonymised. A copy of the findings will be shared in the coming weeks with the LMCs who took part.

GPDF AGM

The AGM will be held on Friday 9 September 2022 at 11.00 and will be a virtual meeting. The Notice calling the AGM will be sent to Nominees on or about 12 August and the Annual Report will appear on the GPDF website shortly thereafter.

What does GPDF actually do?

We have prepared a short overview <https://www.gpdf.org.uk/what-does-gpdf-actually-do-for-lmcs-and-general-practice/> which can be shared with others in your LMC should you be asked the question "What does the GPDF actually do for LMCs and general practice?"

We hope you find it useful.

Contact us

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