

Cheshire Local Medical Committee Ltd

A Practice Guide to the Parliamentary Committee

Looking into the Future of General Practice

A resource for practices
16 November 2021

This is a Practice Guide developed and issued by Cheshire LMC.

Contents

Briefing Headlines	Page 3
LMC View	Page 4
Related References	Page 5

Briefing Headlines

You may have just heard or read the news regarding the announcement that the House of Commons health and social care committee has launched an inquiry into the future of general practice, declaring that it is 'in crises! It goes on to say "general practice has seen significant changes in recent years, such as the development of Primary Care Networks, and during the pandemic the way in which many patients interact with their local practice has changed substantially. This inquiry will explore specific issues including regional variation in general practice, the general practice workload, and the partnership model of general practice."

<https://committees.parliament.uk/work/1624/the-future-of-general-practice/>

For those in a hurry here are some of the basic headlines –

- Published on 16 November
- No consultation with the BMA
- This review will impact every GP, their staff and practice development irrespective of contract status
- A stated aim is "making general practice more sustainable in the long term"
- It also mentions "the sustainability of the traditional partnership model given the workforce crisis, prioritisation of integrated care, and the move towards salaried GP posts"
- It will look at whether or not current GP contracting and payment structures support 'proactive, personalised, coordinated and integrated' care'
- It will consider whether or not PCNs have improved this kind of care and reduced the admin burden on GPs
- It will also ask of general practice can work in effective partnerships with other job roles in primary care and beyond to free up more GP time for patients, and to what extent

In short it will look at the key challenges facing general practice over the next five years as well as the current and ongoing barriers to access to general practice by patients.

Whilst your LMC will be reviewing the detail individual GPs and practices are encouraged to do likewise.

Evidence can be submitted here

<https://committees.parliament.uk/work/1624/the-future-of-general-practice/>

Written evidence should be no more than 3,000 words.

Former health secretary Jeremy Hunt, will chair the committee.

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LMC View

Over recent months Cheshire LMC has been discussing, and reacting to, the current workforce and workload issues impacting our practices and PCNs. Whilst we have had some local successes negotiating changes and funding this is a national crisis.

What would you wish to see happen to improve working in general practice and the care that you can provide patients? We really want to know your alternatives to, or in addition to industrial action (as currently being considered by the BMA), and what you want to see from Cheshire LMC next - whether you agree with the LMC or BMA/GPC approach. This House of Commons announcement is your opportunity to provide comments and thoughts but please do try to include some constructive suggestions and actions amongst any barriers!

Things that have been considered by Cheshire LMC or mentioned to us following the recent BMA/ GPC communications: -

- Reduce negativity/increase positive voice and media (#MAKEGPGREATAGAIN!)
- Better leadership from GPC and LMC empowering people to say no
- Support for PCNs (range of views but positive outweighing the negative with call to assist with NHSE control/burden work to allow PCNs to flourish and be maximised)
- Ability to use ARRS staff better and broaden their use but recognise some patients want GPs!
- Reduce admin burdens and data collections (e.g., stop QOF for this year)
- Reduce financial dependency on over burdensome little value specifications
- Locally little appetite for industrial action
- Educate patients....and government!
- Define (and properly cost) general practice role, define what is primary and secondary care for patients so they understand roles, and define capacity/cap on safe practice/daily consultations (requires overflow). Stop bucket style approach to commissioning
- Mixed views on online consultations
- Patients first/ no desire to compromise patient care
- Talk to us (jobbing GPs)!
- Reliable IT support
- All practices working together/consistent approach in media messages (national)
- Stop workload shift from secondary care and/or ability to return if workload too much

This review is a call for evidence, and anyone can respond. Deadline is 14th December.

You should consider enlisting commentary from your **patient participation groups** about why they like and need the continuity that is provided by the independent contractor model; and from salaried GPs as to why they would prefer to work for a GMS partnership of GPs than a Primary Care Organisation or commercial organisation, and from GP locums as to what kind of environment would bring them back into a substantive practice role.

We need to spell out the financial and clinical efficiency plus the patient safety aspects of the kind of practice NHSE (and Dept of Health and Social Care) are trying to break.

Related Reference List

House of Commons Announcement

<https://committees.parliament.uk/work/1624/the-future-of-general-practice/>

NHSE/ I Our plan for improving access for patients and supporting general practice
[BW999-our-plan-for-improving-access-and-supporting-general-practice-oct-21.pdf](https://www.nhs.uk/our-plan-for-improving-access-and-supporting-general-practice-oct-21.pdf)
(england.nhs.uk)

BMA Workload Control in General Practice

https://www.bma.org.uk/media/1145/workload-control-general-practice-mar2018-1.pdf?utm_source=The%20British%20Medical%20Association&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=12741476_GP%20ENEWSLETTER%20

GP Partnership Review (NHSE/ Dr Nigel Watson)

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/770916/gp-partnership-review-final-report.pdf

Understanding Pressures in General Practice (Kings Fund)

https://www.kingsfund.org.uk/sites/default/files/field/field_publication_file/Understanding-GP-pressures-Kings-Fund-May-2016.pdf

Pressures in General Practice (Kings Fund)

<https://www.kingsfund.org.uk/projects/pressures-in-general-practice>

Measuring General Practice Productivity (Kings Fund)

<https://www.kingsfund.org.uk/publications/measuring-general-practice-productivity>

Primary Care Networks (BMA)

<https://www.bma.org.uk/advice-and-support/gp-practices/primary-care-networks/primary-care-networks-pcns>

Primary Care Home: Evaluating a New Model of Care (Nuffield Trust)

<https://www.nuffieldtrust.org.uk/research/primary-care-home-evaluating-a-new-model-of-primary-care>

Primary Care Estates Guide (NAPC)

<https://napc.co.uk/pcnestatesguide/>

Cheshire LMC is a member- based organisation, independently funded by its member practices. It is the only representative voice in the local NHS that is recognised by statute. We exist to represent and support you. To do that we always welcome your views, ideas and concerns.

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