

Minutes - Cambridgeshire LMC Meeting

Thursday 30th April 2020 at 3pm

Virtually, via webex

Present:

Drs Diana Hunter (Chair), Kavita Bhardwaj, Sean Culloty, Ben Curtis, Francesca Frame, Emma Gayton, Liz Halliday, James Howard, Steve Jones, Nanette Kelly, Lisa Lim (LLi), Liam Loftus (LLo), Harshad Mistry, Neil Modha, Mike Moor, James Morrow, Kathryn Newell, Paula Newton, Duncan Outram, Simon Poole, Nathalie Rodriguez-McCullough, Clare Routledge, Jo Scrivens, Richard Weyell, Jennifer Wheatley

In attendance: Dr Katie Bramall-Stainer, Jo Audoire Emma Drew

1. Welcome and Introductions

1.1. Apologies were received from Drs Amrit Takhar

1.2. Newly co-opted members Dr Lisa Lim, Dr Nanette Kelly and Dr Liam Loftus were welcomed to their first LMC Committee Meeting.

2. Minutes of previous meeting

2.1. Minutes of the meeting Thursday 26th March 2020

The minutes were approved.

3. Matters Arising

3.1. Matters arising not elsewhere on the Agenda

There were no matters arising not elsewhere on the agenda.

4. LMC Governance

4.1. Treasurer's financial statement 2020/21

4.2. Arrangements for the levy 2020/21

4.3. Organisational governance

The above items were taken together.

The Committee asked the Chief Executive to formally write to the constituents to inform them of the LMC's intention to amend the constitution and invite them for comment, giving them 2 weeks to reply so that an update can be provided at the next meeting. The Committee unanimously endorsed this.

The Committee were provided with an update on the interview process for the position of Executive Director and the Chief Executive was delighted to announce that Alice Benton will be working with us from 1st May 2020.

The Treasurer gave an end of year summary and update on the 2019/2020 accounts and asked the Committee to accept those accounts, to which they agreed.

The Treasurer gave a summary update and some comparisons regarding the voluntary levy which has been 53.82pence for Cambs LMC since 2017. Looking at the long standing stability, the Treasurer recommended a 3pence increase to the Cambs LMC voluntary levy, taking it to 56.82 pence.

The Committee acknowledged the exceptional value for money that Cambs LMC provides to Cambridgeshire constituents and considered the current and future climate of General Practice. There was rich debate on whether the levy should either be increased gradually from this year onwards as other LMCs do or increased by 3pence straight away.

The Committee took a vote, and the majority agreed to a 3pence increase in the Cambs LMC voluntary levy, taking it to 56.82pence.

5. CCG/NHSE Update

5.1. LMC General Practice COVID-19 Recovery Plan

The Committee received this item. The Committee discussed the impact of COVID-19 on General Practice, patients in the community and those in nursing and residential homes and what the future of patient care might look like. Consideration was also given to the future of referrals and diagnostics in the community and in hospitals.

The Committee discussed the pause on the system and the unique opportunity not to resume services in the same way as they were provided before. General Practice has demonstrated the ability to be innovative and transform patient care in a very short space of time and this transformation to digital consultation has gathered enormous public support whilst face to face interaction between GP practices and patients carries a real tangible risk. General Practice now has an opportunity to define what Primary Care should look like and how it should operate.

The Committee discussed remote working in the future which may assist with GP recruitment and retention, whilst recognising remote/digital working may a risk for doctors in training or those who might need training in IT, so balanced additional support will need to be considered

There was also a question as to whether consideration might be given to allow General Practice choice on preferred digital systems in the future and have adequate training and support to use those systems. The Committee noted challenges in receiving adequate IT equipment to enable successful and satisfactory remote working during the pandemic.

The Committee acknowledged the challenges GPs are facing now and may face in the future when carefully considering the model of patient consultation – those who can be seen remotely vs those where it is clinically appropriate for them to be seen face to face or might need to be referred/admitted to hospital.

The Committee also looked at the measurement of physical footfall in General Practice and noted the increase in the complexity and volume of cases that are now being seen in General Practice.

5.2. IT Update

The Committee heard that the Chair has been having ongoing discussions with the CCG and were asked for their feedback on how the CCAS slots are working on the ground. The setting up of the IT has been a challenge but once set up, the service, although not as busy as anticipated (probably

because patients are still accessing their own GP Practice), it is efficient and it is clear that patients don't feel like they are 'part of an algorithm'.

5.3. COVID-19 related local challenges

The Committee heard that the local NHS stakeholders have openly listened to Cambs LMC regarding local issues and challenges and that there will be an item within tomorrow's LMC newsletter.

The Committee were informed of possible fraudulent incidents of people pertaining to be working on behalf of the Government to support shielded patients. The Chief Executive agreed to raise this at the daily Local Health Gold meeting tomorrow.

5.4. 2020/21 GMS contract, PCN DES & LMC Virtual Open Meeting

It was confirmed that the virtual open meeting will be held on 14th May 2020 in the evening by live webinar with a live Q&A, FAQs and slides supported by the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Training Hub.

The LMC position will be to honestly support constituents questions and provide answers by maintaining a neutral view. The Committee voiced that a ready reckoner or a list of pros and cons might be helpful prior to the meeting and endorsed Cambs LMC's intended position.

6. Executive Actions, Feedback & Questions

6.1. East of England Coroner Statement

6.2. Joint RCGP/BMA Guidance on Remote Verification of Expected Deaths

6.3. Draft Cambs LMC Remote Verification of Expected Death Protocol

The Committee received these items. The Chief Executive updated the Committee on the discussions with the County Coroner and their position and Cambs LMC's aim to work to a practical solution in line with BMA & RCGP's published guidance who have also now published their position.

The Committee acknowledged that Cambridgeshire constituents will look to Cambs LMC for a view and steer whilst appreciating that the LMC should protect itself locally from risk and liability.

The Committee took a view and agreed that Cambs LMC should signpost constituents to the BMA & RCGP's guidance, highlighting the East of England Coroners' position (for their information) so that GPs can make an informed professional decision.

6.4. Letter from West Cambs VTS to Cambs LMC

The Committee received this item and their attention was drawn to the withdrawal of the existing individual Training Programme Directors on the West Cambs VTS. This has had an unexpected and deleterious impact on the GP Speciality Registrars and those TPD's working arrangements.

The West Cambs VTS Speciality Registrars were given no notice of this decision and wrote to Health Education England to voice their concerns, to date they have not received a response. Cambs LMC have been provided with a copy of the letter of concern to provide support in seeking a response from Health Education England.

It was noted that neighbouring VTSs do still have the support of the TPD role which is of extreme benefit and that some GP Trainers have also written to Health Education England.

7. GPC matters

7.1. Report from our GPC Representative

A virtual GPC meeting is due to held later in May and an update will be brought to the next LMC meeting.

7.2. Letter from Richard Vautrey to Ian Dodge

The Committee received this item.

7.3. Letter from BMA Council Chair Chaand Nagpaul to Chancellor Rishi Sunak MP

The Committee received this item.

8. Items to receive

8.1. LMC March 2020 Newsletter

8.2. LMC update emails from GPC

The Committee received these items.

9. Any other business

There was no further business to discuss.

10. Date of next meeting

Thursday 4th June 2020 – 3:00pm – 5:30pm – Remote via Webex (Marriott booked if re-opened)