

December Update from the LMC

- **LMC Elections**

Are you worried about your future or the future of General Practice? Do you feel in control of your destiny? Do you feel fairly treated and valued by NHS England? How would you respond if you felt unfairly treated by your CCG or Federation? The LMC are here to support you in all these matters and many others. Our elections will take place in the spring. If you feel you wish to be involved, then please consider if you want to stand to become an LMC Member.

- **Christmas/ New year closing times for Oldham practices**

We have written to Oldham CCG stating that in our opinion practices are legally well within their rights to close at 4.00pm if this has been custom and practice, providing they fulfil their obligations to ensure patients can access urgent care. This has already been agreed in the Tameside and Glossop areas.

- **DEVO GM**

Lengthy discussions took place about DEVO GM. There is a feeling of what the strategy is going to be, although there are concerns about compatibility between existing and proposed local developments. There are significant threats, risks and opportunities.

- **BMA Special Conference - Saturday 30th January**

Representatives from the West Pennine LMC will be attending the BMA's Special Conference on January 30th. This conference is to explore solutions to what is now seen as a crisis for GPs working in the UK. While other areas in the country are worse effected than Greater Manchester, we are well aware that GPs in Oldham and Tameside & Glossop are under extreme pressure. If there are any specific issues you wish us to raise at this forum, please do get in touch before January 30th.

- **Request for letters/ ad hoc medical certificates**

Once again schools, housing associations and other organisations are requesting medical reports and ad hoc requests on an unfunded basis. We strongly advise GPs to not to complete these as they are non-contractual. Please see Appendix 7 on page 39 of the attached BMA guidance 'Quality First - GP Practice Guidance', which provides a letter template for declining to do non contractual work .

- **AGM - May 9th 2016**

A date for your 2016 diaries! It would be great if you could join us for the West Pennine LMC AGM. All GPs and Practice Managers are very welcome for what we hope will be an interesting and stimulating evening.

If you have any queries about the above or any other issues relating to primary care, please do not hesitate to contact us via e-mail or at the LMC office.

We wish you a merry Christmas and a very happy new year!

Kind regards

Jane Hill

Liaison Officer

West Pennine Local Medical Committee