



RECENT NEWS

Welcome to the LMCSN Newsletter!

The LMCSN team will keep you updated on key topics, provide regular summaries of discussions from the Whatsapp group and forum, and share recent additions to the website

WhatsApp Roundup - 20 October - 3 November 2025

Over the past fortnight, the conversation across the LMC Support Network has focused heavily on the ongoing challenges of implementing the October GP contract changes, especially around online consultations (OLC). Alongside this, there has been growing discussion about ICB engagement, national representation, and the internal relationship between GPC England and LMCs.

Online Consultations – Safety, Workload, and Political Context

Members described a growing sense of frustration and anxiety among practices as the OLC changes bed in. Practices continue to report significant increases in online demand with no corresponding increase in clinical capacity. Several contributors referenced Dr Katie Bramall's letter to the Secretary of State.

The group agreed that this has created an unsustainable situation, with digital platforms becoming overloaded and teams firefighting a stream of inappropriate or complex submissions. There were also warnings that the problem will worsen over the winter months, with patient frustration likely to rise alongside system pressures.

There was general consensus that patient safety and staff wellbeing must remain the priority, even if that means pushing back against poorly interpreted contractual expectations. Members reiterated that the key message to practices should be: "safe care first, compliance second."

ICB Enforcement and Regional Variation

Contributors continued to highlight inconsistent approaches from ICBs. Some are constructive and supportive, working collaboratively with practices; others appear directive or punitive, issuing compliance questionnaires and citing "core hours" without clear guidance.

Members emphasised the need for national consistency and evidence-led challenge. LMCs were encouraged to:

- Collect examples of ICB correspondence.
- Request that ICBs quote the exact contractual clause they are relying on before taking any enforcement action.
- Feed this evidence into GPC England and BMA national teams to demonstrate the confusion and variation.

There was a shared recognition that trust between local systems and practices is fragile, and that LMCs need to protect their members through clear, factual advocacy rather than reactive defence.





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GPC England, LMC Relationship & WhatsApp Group Poll

Recent discussion shifted toward GPC England and the wider BMA structures, with several contributors expressing concern about communication gaps and representation.

- Members noted that LMCs often feel sidelined in national decision-making, despite being the statutory bodies supporting grassroots GPs.
- There was debate over whether GPC England's public positioning and political engagement are fully aligned with local realities.
- Some messages reflected tension and disillusionment, with a few questioning whether national leadership is "listening" to LMC feedback or acting unilaterally.

This culminated in a poll posted in the WhatsApp group, asking members for their views on how the group should function going forward:

- Whether it should remain primarily informal and peer-support based, focused on sharing intelligence.
- Or whether it should evolve into a more formal collective voice, potentially coordinating statements or positions across LMCs where national messaging feels disconnected.

Early responses indicated strong engagement and mixed views — some members supported formalising the network to increase impact, while others preferred to preserve its informal, safe-discussion nature. The discussion remained respectful but highlighted an underlying tension between the need for unity and the desire for autonomy in representing LMC concerns.

Media, Messaging, and National Positioning

Several members expressed frustration at ongoing political narratives that misrepresent GP access issues. There was broad agreement that LMCs should continue reframing the debate around safety and capacity, rather than "access for access' sake."

Members also discussed the importance of having clear, consistent communications ahead of the Conference of England LMCs on 7 November, including possible coordinated press activity via the BMA.

Contractual Interpretation and Practice Realities

Members shared examples of confusion around "core hours" and access definitions — particularly whether doors, phones, and online systems must all remain open continuously.

The agreed interpretation: patients must have a route to access care during core hours, but this does not necessarily mean physical presence or full-service availability at all times, provided alternative safe arrangements are in place.





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Morale, Workforce and Peer Support

The tone of discussion around workforce and morale has become increasingly sombre. Members spoke candidly about fatigue, frustration, and burnout, with some describing the environment as “unsustainable.”

There was recognition that many GPs remain underemployed even as demand escalates, pointing to system-level inefficiency and wasted capacity.

Conference of England LMCs

Attention is now turning to the Conference of England LMCs (7 November), viewed as a pivotal opportunity to set the tone for the months ahead.

Members discussed potential motions and themes, including:

- Patient safety in the face of rising digital demand.
- The need for investment in workforce, not just digital platforms.
- Rebuilding the trust between GPC England and LMCs.
- The group agreed that the conference should be used to speak collectively, focusing on constructive, evidence-based advocacy rather than division.

New Funding Offer in Scotland

We are delighted to share that BMA Scotland’s GP Committee (SGPC) has secured a landmark funding agreement with the Scottish Government - a deal that will see almost £250 million of additional recurring investment directed into General Practice by 2028–29. This represents the most significant step forward for the profession in more than a decade.

The agreement formally concludes the recent dispute between SGPC and the Government, which arose after years of chronic underfunding and mounting pressure across Scotland’s GP services. Through the perseverance and professionalism of the negotiating team, the Government has now acknowledged the urgent need to stabilise General Practice, committing to long-term funding that supports sustainability and rebuilds capacity.

The deal brings meaningful, phased investment to strengthen the foundations of General Practice - expanding the workforce, improving premises and digital systems, and ensuring practices are properly resourced to meet day-to-day running costs. These areas have long been highlighted by LMCs as critical priorities, and this commitment marks real progress towards a service that is sustainable, safe, and fit for the future.

This is a tremendous achievement for SGPC, whose negotiators have worked tirelessly and collaboratively to bring the profession’s voice to the heart of national policy. It is also a moment of optimism for GPs, practices, and patients alike - an opportunity to rebuild and restore a service that has been under exceptional strain.

As implementation begins, Scottish LMCs will continue to advocate for fair local delivery, ensuring that this investment translates into genuine stability and a stronger, more resilient future for General Practice across Scotland.



Helping LMCs easily access practice data

- **Search** for practice data in one central place, clearly, quickly and easily
- **Review** the latest data against the previous update, highlighting rises or falls
- **Compare** individual practice data alongside PCN, ICB and NHSE averages

Searchable data includes:

Practice Selection:



- Registered patients
- Number of practices
- Partner headcount
- FTE qualified GPs
- Total appointments

Practice Overview:



- Practice, PCN & ICB
- Registered patients
- Number of partners
- CQC Rating
- List Size

Appointments:



- Total number
- GP & Non-GP
- Same day
- Face-to-face
- Online consultations

Workforce:



- GP Partners
- All GPs
- Nurse
- Direct patient care
- Management
- Admin

Finance:



- Global Sum
- QOF
- National ES
- Local ES
- Total payments

Patient Survey:



- Surveys distributed
- Response rate
- Overall experience
- Ease of contact
- Rating of professional
- Patient choice

How to access:

- Access is for LMC Office/Secretariat team members for internal use only
- Visit the **LMC Support Network** website: <https://lmcsn.co.uk>
- Enter your log in details at the top right of the homepage
- If you do not have a log-in, you can register via <https://lmcsn.co.uk/join-us> (If eligible, you will be sent an email to create a password)
- Go to **Analytics > LMC DataBank**
- Search by: NHS Region > LMC Consortium > LMC > PCN > Practice Name
- Reset each time and reselect to view a different search



LMC Support Network: Best practice resources and support for Local Medical Committees

The LMC DataBank has been funded with thanks to [GPDF](#) and is designed by [Beds & Herts LMC](#) for LMCs. For any queries or reporting any errors, please contact BHLMC on 01438 880010, lmcadmin@bhlmc.co.uk.

RECENT NEWS

Recent Website Uploads

03.11.2025

- [GPCE Update to LMCs - 31 October 2025](#)
- [Oliver McGowan Training - North & South Essex LMCs](#)
- [Practice Briefing for Oliver McGowan Training - Suffolk LMC](#)
- [LES Tracker](#)
- [NHS England Medium Term Planning Framework - Summary for LMCs](#)

[See the LMCSN Website here.](#)



Recent Forum Posts

[See the LMCSN Forum here.](#)



LMCSN Steering Group

The LMCSN Steering Group plays a key role in guiding the work of the Support Network. You can see the Steering group members on the website:

[Meet the Team here](#)

