

SHEFFIELD LOCAL MEDICAL COMMITTEE

NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2006

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ELECTED MEMBER VACANCIES ON SHEFFIELD LMC

As noted in the August 2006 edition of the LMC newsletter, there are two vacancies available on the LMC.

Meetings of the full LMC are held on the second Monday of the month at 7.45 pm at HSBC Sports and Social Club in Dore. In addition, members are encouraged to represent the LMC on other committees and this is either funded by the organisers of the committees or the LMC.

The LMC's primary function is to represent Sheffield GPs and, therefore, it is extremely important that local GPs have a means of debating important topical issues and influencing or making policy in order to represent the breadth of general practice in Sheffield. It is also a very useful forum for keeping up to date with all that is happening in primary care and a chance to meet colleagues with different views across the city.

The LMC would encourage you to consider applying for one of the vacancies.

Please forward expressions of interest to Margaret Wicks at the LMC office, either via email - manager@sheffieldlmc.org.uk or

post - Sheffield LMC, Media House, 63 Wostenholm Road, Sheffield S7 1LE by **Monday 9 October 2006**.

If you require any further information or would like to discuss this prior to making a decision, please do not hesitate to ring Margaret on (0114) 2588755.

PRACTICE BASED COMMISSIONING: SHEFFIELD LMC SUMMARY

At the LMC meeting on Monday 11 September 2006, it was agreed that a brief summary of the LMC's views with regard to implementation of practice based commissioning (PBC) in Sheffield may be helpful to practices in their negotiations, both within their consortia and with PCTs.

A copy of the LMC's summary was recently emailed to all Sheffield GPs and Practice Managers. As this is a rapidly changing area, the summary reflected the LMC's reviews up to the date of the September meeting as follows:

Positive Points:

1. The LMC believes that PBC is acceptable in principle.

2. PBC gives practices an opportunity to work together in areas of mutual interest.
3. PBC is, in the LMC's view, one of the main routes for primary care investment. This is perhaps the main reason why practices should be involved in the process.
4. Nearly all practices have begun to participate in PBC and many have signed up to the DES. This was in line with LMC recommendations.
5. PBC should be to the benefit of patients because with investment in primary care, access to services should be improved.

Negative Points:

1. Practices only received their budgets in early September 2006. Therefore, agreements made with PCTs with regard to commissioning issues prior to this date must be reviewed with a degree of caution, in light of the new financial information that is available.
2. The LMC is dismayed at the PCTs' insistence on delivering the Turnaround Plan in part via PBC which, in turn, means that there will be no primary care investment for at least two and probably three years. In our

view, this is contrary to the intention of PBC.

3. There has been little progress in convergence of approach by the four PCTs in a number of areas, especially in specification and payment of enhanced services and criteria for use of the consortium development funds. These areas must be addressed urgently in the new Sheffield PCT.
4. A proscriptive approach by the PCTs, especially regarding Turnaround is likely to cause disengagement of clinicians and therefore PBC. Such an approach would, therefore, be most unwelcome.

Recommendations to Practices:

1. Practices must examine their budgets very carefully when they are issued.
2. Practices must take great care in agreeing constitutions in their consortia.
3. Consortia must consider, along with all the other issues, how to hold the PCTs accountable for their part of the equation. For example, the PCTs will mostly be responsible for delivering out of hours care within budget. Failure by the PCTs in this area must not be allowed to compromise the efforts made by practices in the elective care and prescribing areas of the budgets.
4. GPC guidance is available on the web and is highly recommended.

Feedback

The LMC is keen for feedback on any of the above points. We are especially interested in problems with Consortium Delivery Fund (CDF) access and differences in the enhanced services specifications and payments across the city.

SHEFFIELD PCT LEADERSHIP

The LMC has recently received an update on the appointments process and interim arrangements for the new Sheffield PCT.

Jan Sobieraj has been appointed as Chief Executive designate. Jan is currently Chief Executive of Barnsley Hospital NHS Foundation Trust.

Interviews for the Chair post have been held. However, an announcement will not be made until 29 September 2006 when the NHS Appointments Commission meets to ratify the proposal.

The following interim arrangements have been put in place:

- David Whitney will continue in his role as Programme Director providing strategic leadership to the process, with support from Jill Dentith and a range of senior colleagues.
- Three PEC Chairs, Richard Oliver, Zak McMurray and Nora Tebbutt, have agreed to continue their time commitment with the new organisation to provide clinical leadership. Between them they will cover a range of key tasks on an interim basis - full details will be issued shortly.
- Ian Davidson and Dilys Noble have agreed to cover the role of lead GP for Child Protection on a citywide basis.

SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL – MEDICATION POLICY FOR HOME CARE

*Article submitted by
Elizabeth Miller,
Assistant Director Pharmacy &
Medicines Management*

From the 1st September 2006 all agencies contracted with the council will work to the revised *Medication Policy: A good practice guide for assisting service users in their own homes with the administration of their medication, May 2006*. The aim of the policy is to secure safer medicines management for vulnerable adults in Sheffield. All providers of home support services in Sheffield have agreed to adopt this common policy where in the past different practices and procedures have operated across home care agencies in Sheffield.

The policy provides:

- Clarity on when home support workers can assist by either:
 - a) Prompt and observe service user to take medicationOR
 - b) Help service user to take medication from container

OR

c) When a) and b) not feasible, removing the dose of medication and assisting the service user to take the dose.

- Clarity on what can and cannot be administered and when administration requires additional instruction and authorisation from the support workers line manager.
- The adoption of common medication records, MAR (medication administration record) charts either electronic or pre-printed buff coloured cards supplied by the service users pharmacy.
- The involvement of community pharmacists (and STHFT and SCT pharmacy services) in supporting the medication policy and code of practice and issuing MAR charts.
- A common induction programme for all Home Support staff, both in post and new recruits.

The policy will be phased in incrementally so that initially it will apply to new service users requiring assistance with medication, however it is expected that over the next 12 months existing service users will be included. Implementation of the policy will mean there should be a decline in the need for pharmacists to issue new NOMAD or other compliance aid devices, where assistance with medication is required from Community Care Services.

A copy of the policy has been sent to all community pharmacies in Sheffield for reference. In addition checklists for pharmacies and surgeries are available to provide a summary of the key points in practice.

The policy implementation is being overseen by the Sheffield City Council – Medication Policy Implementation Group. If you have any comments on the medication policy these can be directed to Contracts and Commissioning, Neighbourhoods and Community Care Directorate, Redvers House, Union Street, Sheffield S1 2JQ.

If you require any further information please contact one of the Sheffield PCT representatives on the Medication Policy Group (Isobel Bancroft or Elizabeth Miller, 271 1317) or the Chair Kim Munks, Service Manager, Neighbourhoods & Community Care Services, 226 1139 (kim.munks@sheffield.gov.uk).

EMPLOYMENT EQUALITY (AGE) REGULATIONS

Following the new Employment Equality (Age) Regulations which are due to come into force in October, it will be unlawful to discriminate on the grounds of age.

The LMC Executive recommends that practices access the information available on the Department of Trade & Industry's website:

<http://www.dti.gov.uk/employment/discrimination/age-discrimination/index.html>

In particular, there are links to the regulations and to good practice guidance produced by ACAS.

CLINICAL AUDIT OF PRE-PREGNANCY COUNSELLING FOR WOMEN WITH TYPE 1 OR TYPE 2 DIABETES

*Article submitted by
Louise White, Clinical Audit & Effectiveness Facilitator*

The Diabetes Services Directorate and the Clinical Audit & Effectiveness Unit at Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust will be undertaking a clinical audit of pre-pregnancy counselling for women with type 1 and type 2 diabetes in Sheffield.

The audit will involve evaluating the pre-pregnancy information and advice given to those women who delivered at the Jessop Wing between 2004 and 2006. Some of these women will have received this information from their GP and we wish to contact the GPs of those women to find out what information and advice they were given.

The audit does not involve anything being done to patients or their information beyond their normal

clinical management. All information will be treated as confidential and all patient data will be anonymised before it is analysed.

For further information please contact Dr Soon Song, Consultant Physician and Lead Clinician for the Sheffield Antenatal Diabetes Service (email Soon.Song@sth.nhs.uk) or Louise White, Clinical Audit & Effectiveness Facilitator (email Louise.White@sth.nhs.uk).

CONNECTING FOR HEALTH: GP ENGAGEMENT FORUMS

NHS Connecting for Health (NHS CFH) is delivering the National Programme for IT. NHS CFH will be running a series of Engagement Forums in each strategic health authority area, for local GPs and Practice Managers to learn more about NHS CFH and to provide up to date information about current, relevant developments.

The events aim to provide a clear update and opportunity to talk about local challenges as well as the innovative ideas and advancements in the region.

Topics to be covered include the NHS Care Records Service (including the GP Summary Care Record), GP Systems of Choice, Data Accreditation, Personal Demographics Service and Role Based Access Control. Speakers include Dr Gillian Braunold and Professor Mike Pringle.

The forums commence on Thursday 28 September in London and continue through October, November and early December at a variety of venues, including Leeds and Manchester.

Further details and a booking form can be downloaded from <http://etdevents.connectingforhealth.nhs.uk> or can be requested from NHS CFH by:

email: events@cfh.nhs.uk

fax: 0113 280 6050

post: Events Team, NHS CFH, 1st Floor, Princes Exchange, Princess Square, Leeds LS1 4HY.

CHRONIC FATIGUE SYNDROME/MYALGIC ENCEPHALOMYELITIS (CFS/ME) SERVICE

Practices should have recently received notification from Ann Nichol and Jack Czauderna that the Multidisciplinary Therapy Service for people with CFS/ME is now open to direct referral by Sheffield GPs. The service is based in Sheffield and covers what will be the seven PCTs across South Yorkshire and North Derbyshire.

Guidance was distributed to practices entitled *Guidance for Early Diagnosis of CFS/ME and Referral to the CFS/ME Service*. The guidance covers:

- Characteristics of CFS/ME
- Differential Diagnoses
- Screening tests (to be performed prior to referral)
- Exclusion Criteria for the CFS/ME Service
- Proposed Care Pathway for Adults with CFS/ME.

Any practices requiring further copies of the guidance or more information, can contact:

Anne Nichol, Service Coordinator, CFS/ME Adult Services for South Yorkshire and North Derbyshire, Fairlawns, 621 Middlewood Road, SHEFFIELD S6 1TT
Tel: (0114) 229 2937
Fax: (0114) 229 2922
Email: cfsme.service@sheffieldsw-pct.nhs.uk

Please forward any articles, comments etc for inclusion in the LMC newsletter to the LMC office via:

Email: manager@sheffieldlmc.org.uk

Fax: (0114) 258 9060

Post:
Sheffield LMC
Media House
63 Wostenholm Road
Sheffield S7 1LE

Articles for the October 2006 edition of the LMC newsletter to be received *by Tuesday 10 October 2006*.