

SHEFFIELD LOCAL MEDICAL COMMITTEE

NEWSFLASH

ELECTING LEADERS TO SHADOW AND PATHFINDER CONSORTIA

The General Practitioners Committee (GPC) has received a number of enquiries and representations from sessional GPs concerning local elections to leadership positions in emerging consortia.

On 26 May 2011, Laurence Buckman, Chair of the GPC, wrote to all LMCs, confirming the GPC's position as follows:

In order to maintain local professional confidence, all transitional arrangements towards clinically-led commissioning consortia must:

- *where creating a clinical leadership team, include a democratic electoral process, that is inclusive and open to all GPs working in the proposed locality whatever their contractual status, and with one GP one vote;*
- *where a practice-level decision is required, for example regarding the practice choice of proposed consortium, every practice must have in place a mechanism which ensures that all GPs working in the practice are appropriately involved in the decision-making process.*

The letter stressed the necessity of LMC's insisting, in their local negotiations and in discussions with practices, on this inclusive and open process and went on to state "*It is essential that this policy is implemented everywhere. If we do not ensure this happens, we are at risk of disenfranchising a large section of our profession and LMCs must play a vital role in preventing that. There is no good argument to support not involving all GPs whatever their contractual status*".

This message was reiterated in GPC Newsletter Issue 1, published on Friday 22 July 2011.

As noted in the December 2010 edition of the LMC newsletter, details of the benefits of including sessional GPs are contained in the GPC's guidance, *Sessional GPs: GP Commissioning and Impact of the NHS White Paper*, which can be downloaded from the *Other Guidance* section of the LMC website at:

<http://www.sheffield-lmc.org.uk/Other%20Guidance/sessional%20GPs.pdf>

The GPC has produced guidance covering elections to consortia, which can be downloaded from the *Other Guidance* section of the LMC website at:

http://www.sheffield-lmc.org.uk/OG_10/shadow_consortia.pdf

The GPC's stance is also reiterated in their guidance *The Governance of Consortia*. As noted in the June 2011 LMC newsletter, this guidance can be downloaded from the *Other Guidance* section of the LMC website at:

http://www.sheffield-lmc.org.uk/OG11/Governance_of_Consortia.pdf

25 July 2011