

# LMC E-BULLETIN

## SOMERSET LOCAL MEDICAL COMMITTEE

### Summary of significant points arising from Somerset LMC Meeting March 13th

#### TOP Pathway

There are now at least five routes for TOP referral in Somerset. The PCT is therefore seeking to establish a single point of access and a patient pathway through which each patient will be individually managed.

#### IM&T DES/LES

Most practices are expected to be at level 2 or 3 by the end of the current financial year. The PCT has proposed an interim payment of 50 pence per patient, the LMC is seeking full payment of 71 pence per patient for practices that can declare they have reached level 3, subject to clawback if this is not confirmed at the assessment visit.

#### Flu Pandemic Plan

The PCT has prepared a new draft template for practice use that will be circulated. Their Emergency Planning Officer, Nick Booth, is happy to advise practices on their local arrangements if required. This is an opportunity to look at wider aspects of business continuity such as coping with fire, flood, contamination and so on.

#### Shared Care Drugs Service

Somerset DAAT has offered 3% uplift to the LES payments for participating practices. Turning Point, the new provider for Drugs Services, will be taking over prescribing responsibility for existing SDS patients from 1<sup>st</sup> April. There is no plan to transfer a significant number of patients to GP shared care at this time. Most existing SDS staff,

including all but one of the clinical assistants, is moving across to Turning Point.

#### Smoking Cessation

Discussions continue with the PCT on the pricing of an LES for the provision of a practice based (level 2) stop smoking service from April 2008, although there is at present quite a wide difference of view.

#### Flexible opening ES

The Somerset LES details cannot be confirmed until the DES has been confirmed nationally, but the PCT would like to invite practices who are interested in starting to provide routine appointment flexible hours soon to contact David Slack at the PCT with their proposals. In principle the PCT is prepared to pay the relevant proportion of the DES/LES payment if practices provide some of the required hours during the start up period between 1<sup>st</sup> April and 31<sup>st</sup> August.

#### Practice Based Commissioning

The PCT has confirmed that a notional sum of £1M has been identified by the PCT as "freed up resources" so this will supersede the proposed LES2 payment and therefore the requirements that were attached to this do not need to be met.

#### LMC Budget

As the LMC has taken on a wider range of activity, and the intensity of our work has increased, the budget for 2008/09 has been set at £248,619. To allow for the retention of an adequate reserve ("The Fighting Fund") this equates to an LMC subscription of 50p per patient for the year.

### Meetings

|                                  |                |                                  |                  |
|----------------------------------|----------------|----------------------------------|------------------|
| South Somerset Practice Managers | Tues 18th Mar  | Finance and Remuneration         | Thurs 10th April |
| LMC PMs and The PEC              | Thurs 20th Mar | County LMC                       | Thurs 10th April |
| Mendip Practice managers         | Tues 1st April | Somerset Coast Practice Managers | Tues 15th April  |
| LMC/LPC                          | Wed 2nd April  | LMC/Social Services Liaison      | Tues 15th April  |
| County Executive Group           | Mon 7th April  | LMC/Somerset Partnership         | Thurs 17th April |