

## England LMC Conference 2023 Report

The team very much enjoyed attending last week's England LMC conference in London. Katie Bramall-Stainer, Chair of the BMA GP's Committee, strongly opened the conference, reminding us what phenomenal value for money General Practice is, running with 7.2% of the overall health budget. However, she also reflected that we may have gone from 'the jewel in the crown of the NHS' to 'industrial action in slow motion'. Like trusts, KBS believes that we must refocus on safe appointments within our own capacity so that we can stabilise General Practice. Currently, we have multi-episodic fragmented care, and we need to be refocusing on quality rather than quantity. What are we going to stop doing? We are at a tipping point as our population expands, unlike the financial investment.

The two days enabled debates including ones from our Chair and Vice Chair. Motions were carried through that included changing the current inconsistent and chaotic approach of NHSE to the COVID vaccination; ADHD referral and service overhaul, supporting reimbursement of GPs costs for their appraisal and rejecting motions to end Local Enhanced Services, QOF and separating acute and chronic care. The future of working at scale was debated at length and concluded that though there's an even appetite for this, no one model fits all. Focused groups discussed three areas - separating acute from chronic care, how do we slice the pie with what we have, and then continuity of care. It was incredibly hopeful to hear the support for continuity and there was widespread agreement that it could not be measured easily as it lies in the long-term outcome. Incentivising it was again more about taking down the barriers which include incentivising access and CQC bureaucracy.

Ultimately the contracts need to improve so that GPs want to remain in substantive posts. Continuity will develop naturally if the job is doable and enjoyable. Katie Bramall-Stainer ended stating that General Practice is struggling due to starvation of resources and 'that our colleague's goodwill, productivity and trust have masked chronic underfunding. Stop death by proforma. Bring back the referral letter (here, here). We need direct referral for patients. You don't need GPs permission. Get trusts back to payment by results.' Conference all stood up and strongly applauded KBS.