**SPH**

**Somerset GP Board**

8th February 2018

Dear Colleague

One of the principal drivers behind the formation of the Somerset GP Board was to present a cohesive voice to the rest of the health and social care system regarding the way that Primary Care should engage with, but more importantly drive, some of the necessary changes that we need to happen to improve things for practices and their patients. There is a sense that whilst the CCG has been setting up its Clinical Services Review, the system has felt to be in limbo, whilst still coping with the enormous demands placed across all sectors in the past month or so. We know, however, that other parts of the system, especially providers, are still not aware of the sheer volume of work that we do, and some of the barriers that we have to contend with on a daily basis.

Whenever we’re asked how we could improve engagement from Primary Care, our answer has always been that GPs and Practice Managers are pragmatic individuals, and what they really want to know is: ‘What can be done to improve my next Monday?’. At a recent SGPB meeting we discussed the importance of taking control of the agenda as far as we can, and to this end we are asking you to let us know of some of the things that drive you mad - either because they make your job more difficult, or unnecessarily get in the way of patient care. Initially we are asking you to let us know the top 5 things on a wish-list. I suspect many of the responses will be predictable and similar if not identical between practices, but it will strengthen our position in discussions with other sectors if we can say ‘all 71 practices say this has got to change’. Obviously we can’t guarantee that we can change everything, but now, when the whole system is up for review, is the time to be heard. Please send your thoughts or comments by email to the LMC office at sarah.johns@somersetlmc.nhs.uk by the 1st March.

Best wishes



Dr Nick Bray

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