

Somerset GP Board to become Somerset Primary Care Board

At the start of April the GP Board is being reshaped into a new Primary Care Board that adds four PCN Clinical Directors and a provider GP with a role in the new ICS alongside the existing ICS commissioning GPO to the committee membership. The aim of the new Board will be broadly the same as its predecessor, which is to represent all GPs and GP providers in the county in matters relating to new integrated system. The LMC will continue to be a key member of the Board and to provide its secretariat. The chair of the Board will be a member of the system leadership team.

The final meeting of the GP Board discussed the need to ensure there is a simple and efficient system so GPs and practice managers know where to send questions about PCN and ICS matters. It suggested that the Clinical Directors Board, which is one of the constituents of the Primary Care Board, would be the best place to discuss practice engagement with the development of integrated services. The meeting was very concerned to hear that there was currently no central provision of PPE to care homes, and urged that plans for the Covid-19 Home Visiting Service be shared as soon as possible so that practices can understand the likely capacity challenges. Arrangements for patients referred to hospital to be put on a "pending" waiting list during the epidemic were discussed. Most significantly the Board agreed that under the current circumstances there were likely to need to be changes in the way the whole clinical resource of the county will be used, which may mean changes in how, where, and by whom particular services will be provided.