**SLMC Update – February 2019**

Contents

[Negotiating issues and contracts 1](#_Toc1053993)

[GP Sustainability Loan Application and Scheme 1](#_Toc1053994)

[The National GMS Oversight Group 2](#_Toc1053995)

[Funding allocations and GP Subcommittee funding 2](#_Toc1053996)

[External Consultations 2](#_Toc1053997)

[Pension Contributions 2](#_Toc1053998)

[GMC Credentialing 3](#_Toc1053999)

[Workforce 3](#_Toc1054000)

[Integrated Health and Social Care Workforce Plan 3](#_Toc1054001)

[GP Nursing 3](#_Toc1054002)

[Sessional GP 3](#_Toc1054003)

[Information Management and Technology 3](#_Toc1054004)

[Data Sharing Agreements 3](#_Toc1054005)

[Scottish Joint GP IT Group 3](#_Toc1054006)

[For information 3](#_Toc1054007)

[Scottish LMC Conference 2018 3](#_Toc1054008)

[UK LMC Conference 2019 4](#_Toc1054009)

[SLMC Secretaries Day 4](#_Toc1054010)

[Vaccination Transformation 4](#_Toc1054011)

[GP Contract Agreement England 2019/20 4](#_Toc1054012)

# Negotiating issues and contracts

## GP Sustainability Loan Application and Scheme

The GP sustainability loan scheme officially opened on 8 November 2018. These are interest-free loans   
(“GP sustainability loans”) for GPs that own their own premises to reduce the risks associated with premises ownership. Final consideration of accepting the loan can be made at a later stage following consideration of SGPC guidance and independent legal and financial advice.

The Cabinet Secretary of Health and Sport, Ms Jeane Freeman, MSP and Dr Andrew Buist, Chair of SGPC made a joint announcement in Allander Surgery in Glasgow on 13 February 2019 where an additional £20 million will be invested in the GP premises sustainability loan scheme, making a total investment of £50 million over the next two years. The scheme is part of the new contract and aims to ease the financial burden associated with owning a practice, in turn helping improve recruitment and retention. It means GPs who own their own premises can apply for interest-free loans worth up to 20% of the practice’s value. A total of 172 practices have successfully applied for loans – around 50% of the total eligible. Further information on the announcement can be found on the [Scottish Government website](https://www.gov.scot/news/gbp-50m-support-for-gp-practices/) and news coverage of the announcement can be found on the [STV website](https://stv.tv/news/politics/1435494-loan-scheme-for-family-doctors-gets-20m-funding-boost/).

## The National GMS Oversight Group

This group is attended by senior representatives from Scottish Government, Health Boards, Health and Social Care Partnerships and the BMA. The core function is to oversee contract implementation of the new services across the 31 partnership areas. At the fourth meeting of the group on 23 January 2019 the finalised version of the contact implementation progress indicator tracker was approved. The tracker will be sent to LMC secretaries shortly with an expectation that Partnership areas will complete and submit the tracker to the Oversight Group at the beginning of April and October each year. This will enable the group to measure progress with the PCIPs and allow feedback on any potential improvements that can be made to the tracker tool. It was agreed that al the PCIPs will require to be updated by the 1 May 2019 to ensure plans are on target for service transfer by April 2021. The next meeting of the GMS Oversight group is on the 24 April 2019.

## Funding allocations and GP Subcommittee funding

The second funding letter, entitled “GP Sub-Committee Funding: Allocation Letter 2018/19” was sent out on 20 December 2018 to all Health boards confirming the second tranche of 2018-19 funding for GP Subcommittees.

An additional £0.5m was allocated to resource GP Subcommittees directly to deliver the additional work created by the new GP Contract and the MoU. The funds in this second tranche will be allocated via boards on a NRAC basis (Annex for breakdown) in agreement with the BMA’s Scottish General Practitioners Committee. We are aware that some GP Subcommittees have had difficulty receiving their funding from their Board. We have raised this with SG and expect it to be resolved shortly.

The first funding letter was issued on 11 October 2018 entitled “Primary Medical Services (Revenue) Allocations For 2018-19” which provided the first tranche of funding, and it is recommended that this is read in conjunction with the second letter of December 2018 for context.

Scottish Government will continue to review the funding of GP subcommittees as the new contract progresses. This additional funding is not intended to limit any additional support Health Boards may provide going forward and is in addition to any GP Subcommittee funding in place to support the work of GP Subcommittee prior to the new contract agreement. Any GP Subcommittee that has difficulty in receiving this funding should contact SGPC via their LMC.

# External Consultations

## Pension Contributions

Dr Andrew Buist, Chair of SGPC wrote a blog “[Update on Pension Contribution Issue](https://www.bma.org.uk/connecting-doctors/bma_scotland_community/b/weblog/posts/update-on-pension-contributions-issue)” highlighting the actions SGPC has taken on the issue of the *SPPA (Scottish Public Pension Agency)* regulations which propose an increase in employer contribution by 6% from 1 April 2019, “[Consultation on changes proposed by the NHS Superannuation and Pension Schemes (Miscellaneous Amendments)(Scotland) Regulations 2019](http://sppa.gov.uk/Documents/NHS/NHS%20Useful%20Resources/NHS%20Consultations/Consultation%20Letter%20-%20NHS%20Pension%20Scheme%20Amendment%20Regulations%202019%20-%2020%20December%202018.pdf)*”.* SGPC have spoken with Scottish Government primary care officials to state that this was unacceptable, and that GPs being forced to meet these extra costs could have an extremely damaging effect on recruitment and retention – and the sustainability of practices. The SGPC Chair has written to the Cabinet Secretary highlighting concerns that the consultation contains no commentary on how the costs would be met which has caused considerable distress for our GP members and warning of the destabilising effect such an additional cost would have on practices. The same points have also been made formally in the BMA’s response to the consultation. While there is an expectation that funding will be made available to cover these increased costs, SGPC will continue to vigorously pursue this issue until it is resolved.  
  
Further information on the pension contribution consultation response and other consultation responses are available on the [BMA website](https://www.bma.org.uk/collective-voice/influence/uk-governments/westminster/uk-consultations-and-inquiries).

## GMC Credentialing

The GMC is proposing a new regulatory framework for credentialing. Details of the consultation including the draft framework are available on the [GMC website](https://www.gmc-uk.org/education/standards-guidance-and-curricula/projects/credentialing). The deadline for consultation responses is the 25 January 2019. The BMA have provided a response with comments collated from each Branch of Practice.

# Workforce

## Integrated Health and Social Care Workforce Plan

An initial communication on the draft “Integrated Health and Social Care Workforce Plan for Scotland” was sent on 12 December with feedback for 4 January 2019. The final iteration of the plan with feedback contribution considered is expected to be published by late February 2019.

## GP Nursing

The Chief Nursing Officer (CNO) in Scotland published a paper on developing [General Practice Nursing Roles in Integrated Community Nursing Teams](https://www.nes.scot.nhs.uk/media/4235323/cnod6.pdf) on 6 December 2018. This paper aims to develop a more consistent role and training standards for nurses working in general practice.

## Sessional GP

On SGPC, currently 10 of our 41 elected members are sessional GPs which is 24% of the committee. Dr Patricia Moultrie, Deputy Chair of SGPC, and a sessional GP has written a blog on “[How the new GMS contract will affect sessional GPs in Scotland](https://www.bma.org.uk/connecting-doctors/the_practice/b/weblog/posts/how-the-new-gms-contract-will-affect-sessional-gps-in-scotland)” for the January 2019 edition of the [GP Sessional Newsletter](https://bma-mail.org.uk/t/JVX-62R1D-1BJCJOU46E/cr.aspx).

# Information Management and Technology

GPIT Re-ProvisioningThe GP IT Re-Provisioning Service Management Board are moving into Phase 3 of implementation where a new governance structure has been introduced for oversight of the both GP IT Re-Provisioning and Service Management Business as Usual Functions. A new GP IT Service Management Board has been created to serve that function and Dr Andrew Cowie will be representing SGPC as a Senior User on the group. The first meeting of the group is on 20 February 2019 in Livingston. The procurement phase of GP IT Re-Provisioning was completed in January 2019.

## Data Sharing Agreements

The draft board data sharing agreements will encompass guidance for the joint data controller role and responsibilities.  
Data quality continues to be a challenging aspect given each practice has a different method of recording information on patients and are only obliged to keep information in a format that allows them to care for patients. This aspect including codes used in recording of data, was discussed at the Scottish Joint GP IT Group meeting on 14 February 2019.

## Scottish Joint GP IT Group

The Scottish Joint GP IT Group had ts third meeting on 14 February 2019, where there was a presentation from Ann Wales, Programme Manager of Knowledge and Decision Support- Scottish Government and Paul Miller, Primary Care CDS - NSS Lead on the Clinical Decision Support in Primary Care. Other topics of discussion included electronic prescriptions, GP IT Re-Provisioning and systems choice, IT motions passed from SLMC Conference 2018, and data sharing agreements. The remit of the group is to provide a coordinated joint approach to GP information management and communications technologies projects within the NHS and provide guidance on GP IM&T matters.

# For information

## Scottish LMC Conference 2018

The SLMC Conference was held on 29-30 November 2018 at the Golden Jubilee Conference Hotel, Clydebank. The webcast recording is available on the [BMA Event Archives Page](https://bma.streameventlive.com/archive/126), and a video of the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport, Ms Jeane Freeman MSP’s speech is available on [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uhHMKuAVdDo). The Conference agenda, resolutions and minutes are available on the BMA website under [Scottish LMC Conference 2018](https://www.bma.org.uk/collective-voice/committees/general-practitioners-committee/gpc-scotland).   
  
Following conference, the Negotiation team have written to Mr Richard Foggo, Primary Care Lead of the Scottish Government regarding resolutions that were considered highest priority including topics on PCIPs (Primary Care Improvement Plans), MDTs (Multi-Disciplinary Teams), Remote and Rural, Oxygen, Ambulances, Electronic Prescribing, Training and Quality Improvement, Premises, Appraisal, GP Wellbeing and Maternity/Paternity Leave. The formal response received will be shared with SLMC secretaries for information. The resolutions have also been discussed within the negotiation team and will form the basis of the SGPC workplan in 2019.

The 2019 SLMC Conference will be held at the Golden Jubilee Conference Hotel, Clydebank on 29 November 2019 with a dinner and reception being held on 28 November 2019.

## UK LMC Conference 2019

The UK LMC Conference 2019 will be held at the [ICC Belfast](https://waterfront.co.uk/) (previously known as Belfast Waterfront), 2 Lanyon Place, Belfast, BT1 3WH, on 19 and 20 March 2019. An agenda will be available on the [BMA website](https://www.bma.org.uk/collective-voice/committees/general-practitioners-committee/lmc-conference) on 18 February, where further details can also be found on the conference.

## SLMC Secretaries Day

The SLMC Medical Secretaries Day is scheduled for 17 April 2019. The day will be an opportunity for SLMC secretaries to discuss local issues, the SLMC Conference 2019, share progress on Primary Care Implementation Plans, discuss GP Subcommittee concerns and inform on progress with the use of trackers and scoping tools. The SLMC Lay Secretaries Day is scheduled for 10 April 2019 and will also discuss local issues and progress on the GMS Contract implementation.

## Vaccination Transformation

NHS Health Scotland, on behalf of the Scottish Government’s Vaccination Transformation Programme are hosting 3 regional events “[Transforming Vaccination Service Delivery: Protecting Scotland's Health - Regional Events, March 2019](http://www.healthscotland.scot/events/2019/march/transforming-vaccination-service-delivery-protecting-scotlands-health-regional-events)“. The events will focus on transforming vaccination services and will be held in Aberdeen, Edinburgh and Glasgow on the following dates: 13, 18 and 28 March 2019 respectively. Registration and further details for this free event can be found in the above link.

## GP Contract Agreement England 2019/20

GPC England has negotiated a deal spanning the next five years. Elements will be introduced throughout the five years – 2019 will focus on building the foundations, creating Networks and starting to expand the workforce; 2020 onwards will see the workforce increase further, additional funding and services reconfigured (as decided by the networks). Further information is available on the [BMA GPC webpage](https://www.bma.org.uk/collective-voice/committees/general-practitioners-committee/gpc-england/gp-contract-agreement-england).

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| **LMCs are reminded they can contact Andrea Ma, SGPC secretariat for more information on any of these issues (**[ama@bma.org.uk](mailto:ama@bma.org.uk)**).**  **Our SGPC Negotiating Team**   |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | Image result for dr andrew cowie |  | C:\Users\patricia\Pictures\.jpg | | ***Dr Andrew Cowie***  ***Deputy Chair, SGPC*** | ***Dr Andrew Buist***  ***Chair, SGPC*** | ***Dr Patricia Moultrie***  ***Deputy Chair, SGPC*** |   **Any emails for the SGPC negotiating team should be submitted to** [info.gpscotland@bma.org.uk](mailto:info.gpscotland@bma.org.uk) **your ideas about achievable measures to reduce pressure on general practice are always welcome. We can’t respond to every email, but all emails are read and considered by the team.** |