

# Vox Popolus - The Voice of the People



Voxpop

## What Is Voxpop?

Voxpop is a text-based, threaded, discussion board, designed to allow groups of people to discuss, view, vote and debate issues electronically. The service is entirely web-based and may, therefore, be accessed from any computer that has access to

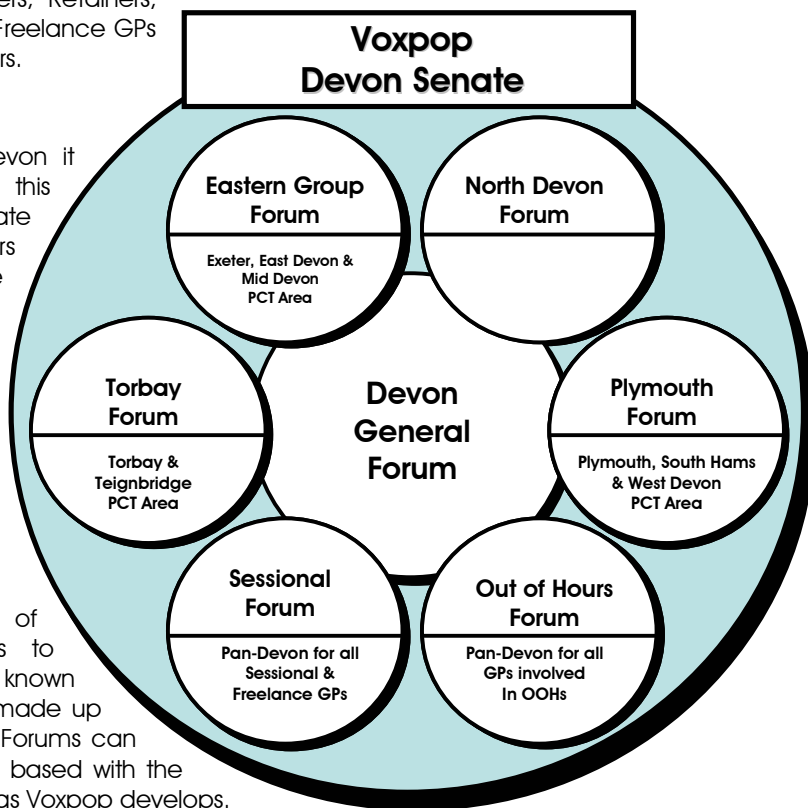
the internet without the need to install third party software. Voxpop has been designed to be used by all Partners, Retainers, Employed, Sessional and Freelance GPs as well as Practice Managers.

## Who is it for?

When Voxpop started in North Devon it was originally for GPs only and this quickly expanded to incorporate Practice Managers. As the users became more comfortable with the system other users were invited to join the Forum. These included a number of managers from the PCT as well as interested Consultants. We propose that the new Forums will be restricted in the first instance to GPs and Practice Managers.

## How will Voxpop be organised?

Voxpop is an organic system of allowing groups or communities to communicate. Each community is known as a "Senate". The Senate is then made up of a number of groups or Forums. Forums can be either geographically or service based with the option of adding additional groups as Voxpop develops.



Building on the existing North Devon Forum, we will create six new Forums. Three of these will be geographical based covering the Eastern Group Forum - Exeter, Mid and East Devon PCT areas, Torbay Forum - Torbay and Teignbridge PCT areas and the Plymouth Forum - Plymouth, South Hams and West Devon PCT areas. A Pan-Devon Sessional and Freelance Forum will be available for all GPs in this group. A separate Out of Hours Forum will be available to all those involved in this area.

The final Forum will be Pan-Devon General Forum which will then be open to all the other Forums in the Senate. This will be available once each of the other Forums are fully established.

## Where has it come from?

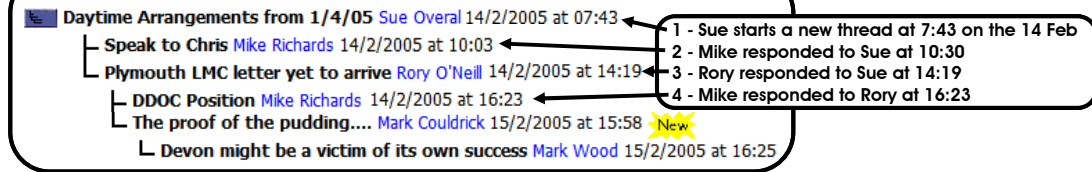
Voxpop was designed and built over a number of years by Dr Mark Wood, from the Litchdon Medical Centre, Barnstaple. Originally it was introduced as a service to GPs across North Devon in 2002. As the system has matured and its use grown, new discussion areas have been created to incorporate Practice Managers, PCT Managers and Consultants. The LMC has also been using a version for a number of years.

## What will it do?

Following the LMC Practice Questionnaire last year where a number of very important issues were identified by practices. Voxpop will allow us to meet all of these needs. We will be looking to give greater support to GPs and Practice Managers on issues which impact on the day to day running of your practices. We want to be able to share the work that the LMC is doing to a wider level. We want to be more transparent in what we are doing. We want to be more democratic and representative in our views. We want to be able to actively seek the opinion of the wider GP community.

Devon LMC News

### Example of a conversation "Thread"

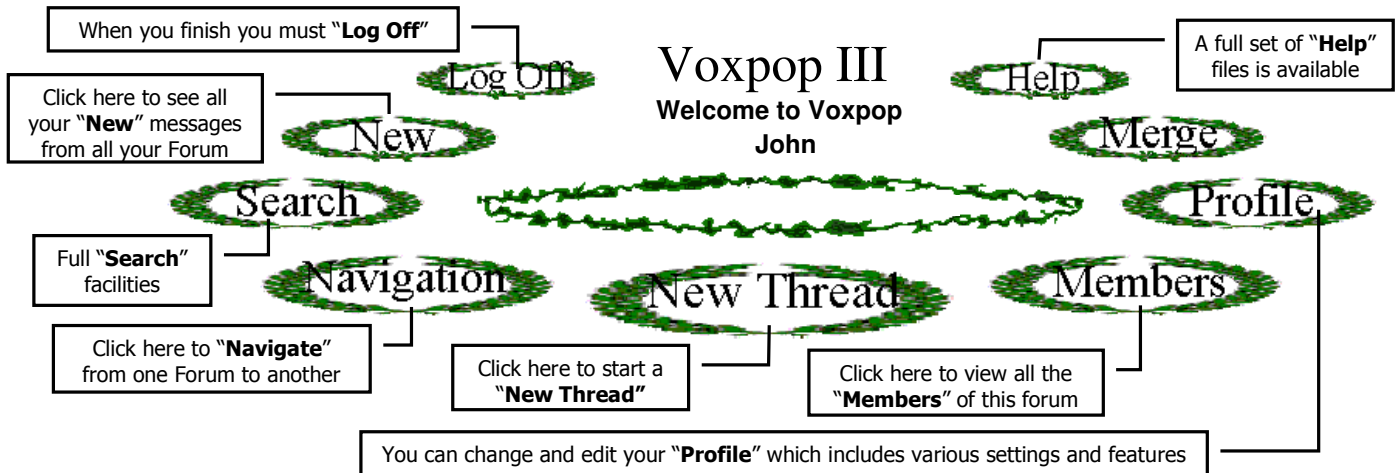


### What is Threading?

Voxpop works on a threaded conversation basis. Threading allows participants to view a conversation, not in the order in which messages are posted, but in conversation order.

Over time a tree of messages is built, with each response being placed at the appropriate place to allow the viewer to see immediately who is saying what and to whom. In the picture above, the original discussion (thread) was started by Sue. Several hours later Mike responded to her. Later Rory joined the conversation, he was able to see and read the earlier threads and added a comment. The next day Mike and Mark added comments back to Rory and finally in this example Mark Wood responded to the comment from Mark Couldrick. Any number of members could view what was being said without the need for input. In this way quite complex threads can be followed with ease.

### Screen shot of Voxpop III



### What are the future plans?

When the service takes off we plan to open a number of new tasks and group specific Forum. These could include such diverse areas as Pan-Devon Practice Managers, Appraisal, Mentoring and GP Education to name but a few.

### How much does it cost and do I have to join?

Membership is totally free. In the first year the cost will be covered from historic GMS sources. Do you have to join? Of course you don't. We would like membership and representation from every practice.

### When and how do I join?

We will be sending you an email to register for Voxpop, this will ask for some basic details, first name, surname, PCT area as well as your preferred email address. We hope to have these out to all GPs and Practice Managers during March. If you experience any problems please contact - voxpop@devonlmc.org



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