

CHIEF OFFICER'S CORNER

Life is complex for GPs, Practice Managers and NHS managers of all types. The other constant with "change" is the increase in complexity that has come about over the last decade. Simple solutions seem no longer to be acceptable perhaps because they do not always tick ALL the boxes that the DH or others have in their hands.

Over the years Devon LMC (in all its iterations) has worked with whatever health authority that existed to find solutions to shared problems **within** the county. We have usually come up with "win-win solutions". Now, increasingly, we are faced with working out local methods for the implementation of possible solutions to problems that do not exist in the county but which may only exist in London and/or other metropolitan areas but which have been centrally imposed upon the county in "one size fits all" diktats from the DH and/or its political masters. For example PMS contracts were set up to "solve problems that could not be dealt with in any other way" and yet we now have about 60% of practices with PMS contracts. Now the issues of the day are "Darzi clinics" and "8 to 8 services 7/7"!! There is no identified need of which I am aware for either of these to be imposed upon our local health communities BUT all three PCOs have been instructed to tender for the second of these "issues" and have done so in concert with Cornwall & the Isles of Scilly PCT. The "big boys" will doubtless "come out to play" and they may cause noise and aggravation for everybody once they pick their playgrounds! I hope that Devon Health, an organisation owned by every GP in Devon, Torbay and Plymouth, will be sufficiently grown up enough to compete.

I have deliberately not asked any of our three PCO CEOs for their views on this situation as I know that for any of them to come out against the idea would be a career limiting step. I do know however that this idea did not form a part of any future planning in their organisations. I also know that a (non South West) PCO CEO who had the temerity to relate the fact that this was not an identified priority for their PCO to the DH via a political route was smacked down with some force! I wonder though how local politicians feel at being largely sidelined in the decision making processes.....?

Conferences - Next week I and 7 other "representatives" travel to London for the Annual LMC Conference, and a few weeks later I will travel to Edinburgh for the BMA Annual Representative Meeting. These are opportunities to affect national policy, at the former for GPs and at the latter for the entire medical profession. The profession generally are battered, bruised and hurting at the moment. If you feel that way too and you would like that to be heard at either (or both) of these meetings contact me with details as I may be able to speak at either, both or neither of the events! I would much appreciate hearing from as many of you as possible. Phone on 07968 484116 or email to peter@devonlmc.org

Extended hours – another "box to tick" - I think it probable that more than 50% of practices will offer some form of extended hours under the various LES arrangements. (Technically a DES does not exist!) I hope that all of you will seek to audit the effect of any services you undertake and consider asking the patients who attend what it was that made them choose to attend during these extra sessions rather than during "core service hours". We could perhaps discover retrospectively what the problem was that we are all being asked to solve!



Supporting Excellent Healthcare through Personal Development

PEAT – Your local resource for CPD Use it or lose it!

Over the last few days you should have received a joint letter from the LMC and the PEAT board explaining that although PEAT has received very positive support and attendance at most of the workshops, we have been unable to secure recurrent funding either from GPs or alternative sources to enable PEAT to remain viable.

We are very keen to keep PEAT functioning but for that to happen – we need the financial commitment from GPs and practices. Please read the letter – it explains the benefits, the revised membership fees and the potential implications to the revalidation process which will retrospectively apply in the not too distant future.

If you haven't seen the letter, or would indeed like to join PEAT please contact Janice Young on 01392 833816 or email her Janice@devonlmc.org

Available for Work...

Dr Heather Elliott

Keen, recently refreshed GP! Available for locum work and seeking salaried post in Torbay, Teignbridge or South Hams area. 6 month GP refresher attachment just completed and passed. Previous and current locum/salaried experience. Worked with Vision and Microtest. 17 years Family Planning experience including IUD fitting and subdermal implants. CV available on request. Please contact me on 07929379758 or email h@elliotts.me.uk

Dr Peter Wenzel

Available from mid July for locum work all week and Saturdays Based in Plymouth, happy to cover Southwest Devon and Southeast Cornwall. Flexible, enthusiastic and hard-working I completed my VTS in Yelverton July 2007 and have experience in inner city as well as rural practice. Regular OOH sessions throughout Southwest Devon. Familiar with Microtest and Synergy For CV, rates, and availability please call 07725 881203 or email peter.wenzel@nhs.net

Dr Jill Knowles

Reliable, flexible and enthusiastic GP, based in the Okehampton area but happy to travel throughout Devon. Available at short notice, for short and long term locum or other job opportunities from August 2008 Keen to arrange some locum work from August onwards, once I have finished my GP reg year in Topsham, Exeter. Please contact on Jillknowles1@hotmail.com or 07966290178 for CV or further information.

Dr David Newman

I am a recently retired GP age 55, now living near Dartmouth, and am looking for locum work in Plymouth or the South Hams. I worked for 24 years as a GP in Leicestershire and 4 years later as a GP in Corby, where I ran a substance misuse clinic. My CV is available on request and I am hardworking, up to date, and I have an excellent rapport with patients. Also I have excellent clinical skills, and I am reliable and conscientious. I am available for short term locum work or longer term work as a GP. If you need a locum or GPwSI in substance misuse then please contact me on 01803 712833 or drdavidnewman@tiscali.co.uk

Vacancies/Adverts

- GP Partner (8 sessions) – Brunel Medical Practice, Torquay
- Salaried GP (8 sessions) – Lyme Regis Medical Centre
- Salaried GP (8 sessions) – Hartland, North Devon
- GP Locum Saltash - 25 Aug - 20 Feb09
- Part-Time Practice Nurse - Castle Gardens Surgery, Torrington
- Practice Nurse – Wembury, South Hams
- Health Care Assistant – Woodbury Surgery
- **Full adverts are on the Devon LMC Web Site - www.devonlmc.info/12**

For Sale... Antique wooden examination couch

Polished Mahogany with turned legs and adjustable head rest, reupholstered in grained brown leatherette. Excellent condition £150 ono. Brenda Netherton, Practice Manager, St Barnabas Surgery Tel. 01752 607006

Welcome	Goodbye
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr Andrew Venning, Okement Medical Centre • William Knight, Glendower Surgery • Marc Roediger, Glenside Medical Centre 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr Nigel Padfield, Okement Medical Centre • Dr Sarah Fagg, Okement Medical Centre • Dr Johnathan Craig, Sidmouth Health Centre

Support Your Surgery - Online Petition:

The Support Your Surgery petition can be signed online at: <http://tinyurl.com/6cyaqy>

Practice Manager Email Addresses – NHS.NET

Devon LMC is outside of the NHS Net and while this is not a major issue, we do have a problem in that we cannot access NHS Net global address books. If your practice has recently moved from the old L-xxxx format address to NHS.Net or you have stopped receiving the weekly LMC weekly eBulletin (the last was No 60 on the 3 June) could you please let the office know your new address – email anita@devonlmc.org - many thanks...



LMC Conference & Office Closing

Due to the LMC Conference in London on 12/13 June the office will be closed from 12:00 on the 11 June. In case of emergency you can contact the secretariat team on their mobiles.

Dr Peter Jolliffe 07968 484116 - John Baker 07980 447361 - Sarah Hale 07966 082611 - Debbie Galbraith 07966 594921

Matters being advertised within the Devon LMC Newsletter must not be assumed to be approved or endorsed by the Devon LMC