

## **LMC CONFERENCE 2010**

This a short précis of some of the main topics debated at the LMC conference earlier this month. What the conference lacked in its usual passion it made up for in the breadth and at times depth of debate. Any opinions expressed in this piece are my own.

Lawrence Buckman began conference with a rousing speech acknowledging the country's dire financial position and suggesting that management consultants, Management tiers, patient experience surveys, Choose and Book, NHS Direct, Darzi and walk in centre could all be dispensed with little loss in care and great savings.

### **Out of Hours**

Quote "we will not go back to round the clock working" "We will not be the providers of last resort."

### **DDRB**

Less than inflation. Doesn't cover cost inflation and will be inequitably applied so practices with MPIGs will get less.

### **Sessional/Salaried GPs**

Grossly underrepresented nationally and locally. Paper on reorganisation of GPC accepted to ensure representation and prevent split in the profession. We locally are in the process of mirroring this.

### **Commissioning**

PBC variable success (?crap). Being used through QUIPP to cut and transfer work to 1\* care (beware!). In future should be voluntary and not linked to core income.

### **Polysystems**

Decried as fragmenting care and not addressing GP training needs.

### **SCR**

MUST have informed consent. Not the present implied consent. Although events since conference suggest this project is disappearing on to the back-burners for the moment.

### **Homeopathy**

Rejected as being a "Lifestyle choice" "Hobby" and not worthy of NHS finance.

### **HINI**

Remarkably muted criticism of either the GPC or govt for the fiasco of this pandemic. Not sure why.

### **King's Fund**

Oration by Prof. Chris Ham about the future of GP land. "integration" "federations" "models of care" "networks" "signposting" "closer to home" "inappropriate use of hospitals". Fund-holding word used frequently. When I have this translated into English I will let you know what it all means but it was all said with a frightfully nice smile. I suspect the message is. We all know hospitals are in a mess and you haven't got spare time or capacity but the only way to bale them out is for you nice boys/girls to do everything yourselves and as there will not be any beds sick people will have to stand up!

### **Boundaries**

The threats to the mentally ill and at risk children emphasised.

### **Revalidation**

GMC and RCGP roundly castigated for forging ahead and not taking the Profession with them. Una Coales did a straw poll and 99% rejected the concept completely!

The LMC conference is a superbly marshalled event where anyone can speak on any topic. The agenda is created by LMCs throughout Britain. If you would like more detailed info on any debate please contact the office. If you have any ideas for debate next year let us know and we will do our best to promote them.

Yours

Malcolm MacKinnon  
**LMC Chairman**