

Annual Conference of LMCs – 19 and 20 May 2016

Report from BA Branch Vice Chair Dr Steve Patterson

This year's annual LMC conference saw a last minute change of venue and a change of format from previous years. The changed format was an improvement on the usual 2 days of motion after motion with most being passed.

Day 1

After Chaand Nagpaul's opening speech the morning was divided into 4 themed debates covering Funding of General Practice, Workload in General Practice, General Practice workforce and Empowering Professionalism. After each debate delegates voted to indicate the extent to which they supported current GPC policy. The general feeling was that things were just about moving in the right direction but more needs to be done much more quickly, particularly with respect to funding and workload. This followed on from the LMC Special Conference in January, the subsequent Urgent Prescription For General Practice and Simon Stevens' response with his General Practice Forward View which was felt to not go far enough, quickly enough.

After lunch there was a choice of attending 3 out of 9 parallel discussion groups, these were designed to be less formal so members of conference could 'Listen, Challenge and Learn'. The choices included GP training, GP premises, Manchester devolution, creating an extended primary care team, GP networks and New Models of care.

Day 2

A 'Major Issue' debate took place to debate and try to agree the profession's response to the General Practice forward View.

The remainder of the morning took more of a traditional format with motions discussed and voted on as to whether they became GPC policy. Motions debated included premises and NHS Property Services, charging overseas visitors, capping locum fees and extending the period of self-certification to 14 days.

The Soapbox session covered areas not already debated including appraisal confidentially, use of social media to inform patients of the state of general practice, support for prison GPs, the GPC negotiating for PMS practices and relooking at seniority.

After lunch a few specific motions from the first morning's themed debate were debated as standalone items. Asking the GPC/BMA to relook at the recent change to the Firearm Licensing process was the big winner here.

Finally there was a report from Hamish Meldrum on reforming the GPC. It was decided to create a GPC England and to change conference in future years so England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland would have their own 1 day conferences and there would, later in the year be a 1 day National GPC conference.

All in all a good 2 days, general practice is in crisis and collapsing in some areas, more needs to be done and quickly. As Bradford & Airedale Branch Member Alun Griffiths said to conference 'there's nothing wrong with the current model of care it just needs funding properly' to much applause from conference.