RESOLUTIONS OF SPECIAL NILMC CONFERENCE 4 NOVEMBER 2017

Chair NIGPC
1. That this Conference further commends the actions of NIGPC Chair Dr Tom Black in being a consistent voice for primary care in NI and steering the profession through its current crisis.

Health Minister
2. That this Conference condemns the willing inactions of local politicians to implement true effective change in the NI Healthcare system whilst at the same time they actively complain about their consequences on the provision of care to the population of Northern Ireland.

GMS contract
3. That this conference believes the present GMS Contract is no longer fit for purpose.
4. This conference instructs NIGPC to negotiate taking the role of signing sick/fit notes away from GPs as this is an occupational health role.

Workload
5. This Conference calls on HSCB, in view of workforce pressures, to encourage and support practices to cooperate and merge.

Workforce
6. That this Conference instructs NIGPC to explore with relevant parties increased utilisation of the part time GP workforce who face multiple barriers to increasing their work commitment.
7. That this Conference instructs NIGPC to explore with NIMDTA the possibility of offering financial incentives to improve the uptake of GP training places in under-doctored areas of NI similar to the golden hello scheme that has been announced in England.
8. This conference instructs NIGPC to discuss with QUB and DoH the need to review the current policy of travel/transport expenses for medical students on GP placement in NI to bring them in line with the rest of the UK.

Federations
9. This Conference insists that a mechanism must be established to enable services to be directly commissioned from GP Federations.
10. This conference demands that the NHS pension regulations are amended immediately to enable GPs employed by Federations and performing NHS work to superannuate their income.
11 That this Conference demands NIGPC negotiate with the Regional HSCB/Commissioner that total community nursing budgets be devolved to GP Federations, to preserve this valuable resource and ensure patient facing services are preserved in the community.

Rescue Plan

12 That this Conference calls for an immediate, fully funded rescue plan for GP services to be implemented by the current responsible officer, ie Permanent Secretary for Health, Minister for Health, Direct Rule Minister with Responsibility for Health or whoever is in charge on the day of conference!!

13 This conference calls for immediate instatement of a sickness leave policy for all GPs similar to what has been agreed in England.

Trusts

14 That this Conference calls upon the Department of Health and Regional HSCB to enforce the NHS England contractual obligations on the Health Trusts in NI around DNAs, follow up investigations and appointments.

15 That this Conference sends a strong an unambiguous message that Primary Care contracts held by the Trusts will signal the end of General Practice and the downfall of the NHS in Northern Ireland.

16 That this Conference asks for NIGPC to negotiate the ability for flu vaccinations to be given to their own patients who are NHS staff if they feel that this is more convenient for them.

17 That this Conference calls upon the Regional HSCB to highlight the true current state of waiting times to access secondary care services in a format that allows the referrer/GP to refer a patient safely and in an informed manner, and to define the generic term “performance issues” that attaches to any query.

GMS expenditure

18 This conference demands that the Department of Health pays GPs for looking after every patient in Northern Ireland and increases the budget accordingly.

19 This conference is aware that many practices have suffered significant losses in global sums in recent years, and calls upon DoH and HSCB to work with NIGPC to understand the causes and mitigate the effects of these fluctuations.

OOH

20 That this Conference instructs NIGPC to ensure that any proposed 4pm to 8pm service must be piloted, costed and evaluated without harming daytime services or current OOH provision.

21 This conference calls for out of hours rates (paid to doctors) to be uplifted taking into account inflation since 2004 and significant indemnity and pension cost increases in
this time (and impending tax and national insurance changes being applied to sessional doctors).

**Indemnity**

22 That this Conference instructs NIGPC to negotiate a solution to the spiralling and unaffordable indemnity costs with the Department of Health similar to the proposed scheme in England.

**NIAS**

23 That this Conference instructs NIGPC to instruct all practices that booking of an ambulance for a first outpatient appointment is not a GPs responsibility.

**Prescribing/practice based pharmacists**

24 That this Conference commends the continued roll-out of the Practice Based Pharmacist scheme through the GP Federations and would ask NIGPC to ensure that the HSCB consider the long-term benefit of the process, when considering “cost effectiveness”.

25 That this Conference notes with alarm the increasing prevalence of drug misuse in Northern Ireland and instructs NIGPC to negotiate with HSCB and the Public Health Agency an appropriately funded strategy to address this.

26 That this Conference supports the Department of Health in any discussions and measures that they may consider to create a list of medications not available on prescription.

**IT**

27 That this conference asks that NIGPC works with the board and BSO to enable practices to be compliant with the new GDPR coming into effect in May 2018.

28 This conference calls that HSCB must provide robust ICT to reduce the burden of practice administration.

29 That this Conference notes the increasing misuse and abuse of the NIECR and the governance, workload and safety issues that this creates. We insist that NIGPC through the LMCs continue to hold the Trusts to account on this.

**Retainers/Sessionals**

30 That this Conference welcomes the reintroduction of the retainee scheme in Northern Ireland but asks NIGPC to negotiate some protection for practices against the impact of sickness and maternity leave.

**Remediation**

31 That this Conference demands that the HSCB commissions a service to ensure that a functional system of remediation for general practitioners exists, for those who require it, and replaces the current ad-hoc arrangement as soon as possible.
AND FINALLY . . . . .

That this conference, due to the underinvestment in GP premises, calls for the appropriation of underused government buildings for use as health and care centres.