General Practitioners Committee (GPC) –

2014 Practice Collaboration Survey, Full Results

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General Practitioners Committee (GPC) –

2014 Practice Collaboration Survey Results

England

1555 respondents from a possible:

35,527¹ GPs working in England = 4%

Headline Figures:

One in five (22%) respondents are part of an existing network/federation. A third (35%) are considering it.

Barriers

Nearly 7 in 10 (69%) of respondents cited workload pressures as a barrier to establishing network or federation, with a similar figure (66.5%) citing a lack of time.

Almost half of respondents (45%) are not convinced of the benefits of forming federations or networks.

Over a third (36%) thought that joining a network or federation could pose a threat to the independence of their practice.

Of those not currently exploring opportunities to join a network or federation nearly a quarter (24.8%) do not believe that large groups will be effective.

Over one in three (35%) do not view joining a network/federation as a priority.

GPC support

Two thirds of respondents (64%) would appreciate the GPC providing examples of existing networks or federations.

Existing networks

Almost half (43%) of respondent’s existing networks/federations comprised of between 2 and 10 practices, and a fifth (20%) covered 25,001-50,000 patients.

Of respondents in existing networks/federations, one in two (52%) are planning on sharing policy or procedures and nearly a third (32%) are planning to share staff. Only one in ten are planning to share premises.

¹ Table 1a: All General Medical Practitioners: headcount by type, NHS Staff - 2002-2012, General Practice, Health and Social Care Information Centre (March 2013).
Nearly two thirds (63%) stated that their network/federation is planning to bid for enhanced services, 38% to develop community based GP with a special interest, and a fifth (19%) are planning to bid to deliver out of hours services.

**Is your practice part of a group of practices working together (i.e. a network or federation)?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Answer Options</th>
<th>Response Percent</th>
<th>Response Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>22.4%</td>
<td>341</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>43.1%</td>
<td>655</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not yet, but we are currently considering it with</td>
<td>34.6%</td>
<td>526</td>
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answered question 1521
skipped question 34

**Why is your practice not exploring opportunities to join networks or federations?**

(Tick all that apply)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Response Percent</th>
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</tr>
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<tbody>
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<td>My practice is already big enough</td>
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<td>I do not believe large groups will be effective</td>
<td>24.9%</td>
<td>160</td>
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<td>It would be a threat to my practice's independence</td>
<td>28.0%</td>
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<td>Lack of time</td>
<td>43.9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Workload pressures</td>
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<tr>
<td>Geographical location</td>
<td>10.1%</td>
<td>65</td>
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<tr>
<td>It's not a priority</td>
<td>35.2%</td>
<td>226</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It's not appropriate for my area (remote and rural)</td>
<td>5.1%</td>
<td>33</td>
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<tr>
<td>I would like to but I can't persuade partners</td>
<td>4.2%</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I would like to but I can't persuade neighbouring</td>
<td>6.7%</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I do not get on with the personalities in neighbouring</td>
<td>8.6%</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I do not get on with the personalities involved in the</td>
<td>2.3%</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No CCG / LCG / Health Board support</td>
<td>7.9%</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don't know</td>
<td>9.2%</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (please specify)</td>
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answered question 642
skipped question 913
### What are the barriers to establishing a network or federation? (Tick all that apply)

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<th>Answer Options</th>
<th>Response Percent</th>
<th>Response Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Not clear or convinced of the benefits</td>
<td>45.6%</td>
<td>236</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It would be a threat to my practice's independence</td>
<td>36.4%</td>
<td>188</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of time</td>
<td>66.5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Workload pressures</td>
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<tr>
<td>Geographical location</td>
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<tr>
<td>It's not a priority</td>
<td>12.2%</td>
<td>63</td>
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<tr>
<td>It's not appropriate for my area (remote and rural)</td>
<td>3.1%</td>
<td>16</td>
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<tr>
<td>I would like to but I can't persuade partners</td>
<td>3.7%</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I would like to but I can't persuade neighbouring</td>
<td>8.5%</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I do not get on with the personalities in neighbouring</td>
<td>9.1%</td>
<td>47</td>
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<tr>
<td>I do not get on with the personalities involved in the</td>
<td>2.3%</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No CCG / LCG / Health Board support</td>
<td>8.5%</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>None</td>
<td>7.5%</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don't know</td>
<td>3.7%</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (please specify)</td>
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<td>90</td>
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Answered question: 517
Skipped question: 1038

### What type of support would you find helpful from the BMA's GP Committee? (Tick all that apply)

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<th>Answer Options</th>
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<th>Response Count</th>
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<td>Guidance</td>
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<tr>
<td>Human resources advice</td>
<td>43.2%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Project management support</td>
<td>44.0%</td>
<td>639</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contract checking services</td>
<td>50.0%</td>
<td>725</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support developing links between groups of practice</td>
<td>39.5%</td>
<td>573</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>None</td>
<td>5.5%</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don't know</td>
<td>9.0%</td>
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Answered question: 1451
Skipped question: 104
What is your network or federation planning to do?
(Tick all that apply)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Answer Options</th>
<th>Response Percent</th>
<th>Response Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<tr>
<td>Bid for enhanced services</td>
<td>62.9%</td>
<td>205</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bid to deliver out of hours (OOH) services</td>
<td>19.3%</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Share staff</td>
<td>31.6%</td>
<td>103</td>
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<tr>
<td>Share premises</td>
<td>9.8%</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Develop community based GP with a special interest</td>
<td>38.3%</td>
<td>125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Share policy or procedures</td>
<td>51.5%</td>
<td>168</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manage or taking over community nursing</td>
<td>18.4%</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bid to be a Challenge Fund pilot area (England only)</td>
<td>31.3%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Provide peer support / shared education</td>
<td>44.2%</td>
<td>144</td>
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<td>14.4%</td>
<td>47</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other (please specify)</td>
<td>16.9%</td>
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answered question 326

skipped question 1229
England Breakdown Numbers

Support from BMA/GCP

Three quarters of those surveyed who are considering forming a network or federation of practices would like the BMA to offer guidance and examples of existing networks/federations (76% and 74% respectively).

A similar number (74%) would also like legal advice.

One in two (47%) would like support developing links between groups of practice networks or federations.

Over half of respondents (55%) within practices that are already part of a network or federation would like further BMA/GPC guidance.

Responses remain similar between regions with three in five in each region stating a preference for further guidance and examples of networks and federations.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BMA/GPC Support, Practice part of a group of practices working together (i.e. a network or federation)?</th>
<th>Guidance (%)</th>
<th>Examples of networks/federations (%)</th>
<th>Legal advice (%)</th>
<th>Human resources advice (%)</th>
<th>Project management support (%)</th>
<th>Contract checking services (%)</th>
<th>Support developing links between groups of practice networks or federations (%)</th>
<th>None (%)</th>
<th>Don't know (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>655</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Not yet, but currently considering it</td>
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<td>74</td>
<td>74</td>
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<td>57</td>
<td>62</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>341</td>
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<td>5</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BMA/GPC Support, Area Team Region</th>
<th>Guidance (%)</th>
<th>Examples of networks/federations (%)</th>
<th>Legal advice (%)</th>
<th>Human resources advice (%)</th>
<th>Project management support (%)</th>
<th>Contract checking services (%)</th>
<th>Support developing links between groups of practice networks or federations (%)</th>
<th>None (%)</th>
<th>Don't know (%)</th>
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<tr>
<td>North of England</td>
<td>366</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>57</td>
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<td>6</td>
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<td>Mids and East England</td>
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<td>61</td>
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<td>58</td>
<td>40</td>
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<td>48</td>
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<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>South England</td>
<td>484</td>
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<td>62</td>
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<td>42</td>
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<td>6</td>
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<td>London</td>
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<td>66</td>
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<td>60</td>
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<td>45</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>38</td>
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<td>47</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>7</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BMA/GPC Support, Considering Forming a Network, Area Team Region</th>
<th>Guidance (%)</th>
<th>Examples of networks/federations (%)</th>
<th>Legal advice (%)</th>
<th>Human resources advice (%)</th>
<th>Project management support (%)</th>
<th>Contract checking services (%)</th>
<th>Support developing links between groups of practice networks or federations (%)</th>
<th>None (%)</th>
<th>Don't know (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>North of England</td>
<td>129</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>59</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mids and East England</td>
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<td>67</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>59</td>
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<td>17</td>
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<td>0</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
### BMA/GPC Support, Already Part of Federation/Network, Area Team Region

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Number of respondents</th>
<th>Guidance (%)</th>
<th>Examples of networks/federations (%)</th>
<th>Legal advice (%)</th>
<th>Human resources advice (%)</th>
<th>Project management support (%)</th>
<th>Contract checking services (%)</th>
<th>Support developing links between groups of practice networks or federations (%)</th>
<th>Don’t know (%)</th>
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<td>Mids and East England</td>
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<td>52</td>
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<td>3</td>
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<td>100</td>
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### BMA/GPC Support, Number of practices within federation/network

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Count of How many practices are part of your local network?</th>
<th>Guidance (%)</th>
<th>Examples of networks/federations (%)</th>
<th>Legal advice (%)</th>
<th>Human resources advice (%)</th>
<th>Project management support (%)</th>
<th>Contract checking services (%)</th>
<th>Support developing links between groups of practice networks or federations (%)</th>
<th>Don’t know (%)</th>
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<td>53</td>
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<td>70+</td>
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<td>63</td>
<td>25</td>
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<td>50</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t know</td>
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<td>44</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>14</td>
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</table>

### BMA/GPC Support, Number of registered patients within federation/network

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Count of How many practices are part of your local network?</th>
<th>Guidance (%)</th>
<th>Examples of networks/federations (%)</th>
<th>Legal advice (%)</th>
<th>Human resources advice (%)</th>
<th>Project management support (%)</th>
<th>Contract checking services (%)</th>
<th>Support developing links between groups of practice networks or federations (%)</th>
<th>Don’t know (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0 - 25,000</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25,001 - 50,000</td>
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<td>54</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50,001 - 75,000</td>
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<td>59</td>
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<td>49</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
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<td>75,001 - 100,000</td>
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<td>57</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100,001 - 125,000</td>
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<td>43</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>48</td>
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<tr>
<td>125,001 - 150,000</td>
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<td>57</td>
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<td>36</td>
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<tr>
<td>150,001 - 175,000</td>
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<td>31</td>
<td>62</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>175,001 - 200,000</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>200,001 +</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t know</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Barriers to establishing a network/federation and reasons for not exploring opportunities

In all regions, almost half of respondents who are considering forming a federation or network see a lack of clarity on the benefits of federations as a barrier to forming them.

Just less than three quarters (73%) of respondents who are considering forming a federation or network in the south of England see a lack of time as a barrier, with 72% also citing workload pressures, the highest of any English region.

Over two fifths (43%) of respondents in London who are considering forming a federation or network saw the threat to the independence of their practice as a potential barrier, the highest of any English region.

Around one in two of those not exploring opportunities to join a network of federation in all regions stated a lack of time and workload pressures as a reason.

Almost a third (31%) of respondents in the north of England cited a lack of belief in the effectiveness of large practices as a reason for not exploring opportunities to join a network of federation.

### Table: What are the barriers to establishing a network or federation?, Considering forming a federation/network, Area team region

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Respondents</th>
<th>Not clear or convinced of the benefits (%)</th>
<th>It would be a threat to my practice’s independence (%)</th>
<th>Lack of time (%)</th>
<th>Workload pressures (%)</th>
<th>Geographical location (%)</th>
<th>It’s not a priority (%)</th>
<th>It’s not appropriate for my area (remote and rural) (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>North of England</td>
<td>129</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mids and East England</td>
<td>165</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South England</td>
<td>155</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>London</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not Sure</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Respondents</th>
<th>I would like to but I can’t persuade partners (%)</th>
<th>I would like to but I can’t persuade neighbouring practices (%)</th>
<th>I do not get on with the personalities in neighbouring practices (%)</th>
<th>No CCG / LCG / Health Board support (%)</th>
<th>None (%)</th>
<th>Don’t know (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>North of England</td>
<td>129</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mids and East England</td>
<td>165</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South England</td>
<td>155</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>London</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not Sure</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

8
Network/Federation Structures and Plans

Three in five (61%) of respondents’ existing networks or federations are on a formal footing.

Over a third (37%) of respondents’ networks or federations in London and the South of England are on an informal basis, the highest of the English area team regions.

Of the networks or federations on a formal basis, two fifths (39%) of respondents don’t know what legal structure is being used for it.

42% of existing networks or federations are comprised of between 2 and 10 practices.

Three in five respondents say that their network or federation is planning to bid for enhanced services.

A third (30%) of respondents say that their network or federation is planning to share staff between practices, but only one in ten (9%) is planning to share premises.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Why is your practice not exploring opportunities to join networks or federations?, Area team region</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Respondents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North of England</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mids and East England</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South England</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>London</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not Sure</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>I do not get on with the personalities involved in the existing local practice group(s) (%)</th>
<th>No CCG / LCG / Health Board support (%)</th>
<th>Don’t know (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>North of England</td>
<td>166</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mids and East England</td>
<td>205</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South England</td>
<td>205</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>London</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not Sure</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Network/Federation Structures and Plans

If it is a formal arrangement, what legal structure has initially been adopted?, Area team region

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area team region</th>
<th>Large GP partnership (with multiple contracts) (%)</th>
<th>Private company limited by shares (%)</th>
<th>Community Interest Company (CIC) or social enterprise (%)</th>
<th>Charity or Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) (%)</th>
<th>Limited Liability Partnership (LLP) (%)</th>
<th>Company limited by guarantee (%)</th>
<th>Limited Liability Partnership (LLP) (%)</th>
<th>Don’t know (%)</th>
<th>Other (please specify) (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>South England</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>London</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>207</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Is your practice involved in an informal venture or a formal arrangement?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area team region</th>
<th>Formal (%)</th>
<th>Informal (%)</th>
<th>Don’t know (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>North of England</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mids and East England</td>
<td>108</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South England</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>London</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not Sure</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
How many practices are part of your local network?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>2 to 10 (%)</th>
<th>11 to 19 (%)</th>
<th>20 to 29 (%)</th>
<th>30 to 39 (%)</th>
<th>40 to 49 (%)</th>
<th>50 to 59 (%)</th>
<th>60 to 69 (%)</th>
<th>70+ (%)</th>
<th>Don't Know (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>North of England</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mids and East England</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South England</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>London</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>326</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

What is your network or federation planning to do? Area team region

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Bid for enhanced services (%)</th>
<th>Bid to deliver out of hours (OOh) services (%)</th>
<th>Share staff (%)</th>
<th>Share premises (%)</th>
<th>Share policy or procedures (%)</th>
<th>Manage or taking over community nursing (%)</th>
<th>Bid to be a Challenge Fund pilot area (%)</th>
<th>Provide peer support / shared education (%)</th>
<th>Don't know (%)</th>
<th>Don't know (%)</th>
<th>Other (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>North of England</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mids and East England</td>
<td>108</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South England</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>London</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>11</td>
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<td>48</td>
<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>340</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

10
General Practitioners Committee (GPC) –

2014 Practice Collaboration Survey Results

Northern Ireland

48 respondents from a possible:
1,171² GPs working in Northern Ireland = 4%

Headline Figures:

Just one in ten (11.1%) respondents in Northern Ireland are part of existing networks/federations. Two in five (40%) are currently considering joining one with neighbouring practices.

Barriers

Two thirds (67%) of respondents cited workload pressures as a barrier to establishing a network or federation, with a similar figure (72%) citing a lack of time.

Two thirds of respondents (67%) are not convinced of the benefits of forming federations or networks.

At third (33%) thought that joining a network or federation could pose a threat to the independence of their practice.

Of those not currently exploring opportunities to join a network or federation one in five (19%) do not believe that large groups will be effective.

Two in three (62%) do not view joining a network/federation as a priority.

GPC support

Two thirds (64%) would appreciate the GPC providing examples of existing networks or federations. Two thirds (64%) would like further guidance and half (50%) support in developing links between groups of practice.

---

² Number of GPs by Gender and List Size, 1985-2013, Northern Ireland HSC Business Services Organisation
Is your practice part of a group of practices working together (i.e. a network or federation)?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Answer Options</th>
<th>Response Percent</th>
<th>Response Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>11.1%</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>48.9%</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not yet, but we are currently considering it with</td>
<td>40.0%</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

answered question 45
skipped question 3

Why is your practice not exploring opportunities to join networks or federations?
(Tick all that apply)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Answer Options</th>
<th>Response Percent</th>
<th>Response Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>My practice is already big enough</td>
<td>9.5%</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I do not believe large groups will be effective</td>
<td>19.0%</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It would be a threat to my practice's independence</td>
<td>33.3%</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of time</td>
<td>66.7%</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Workload pressures</td>
<td>66.7%</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geographical location</td>
<td>14.3%</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It's not a priority</td>
<td>61.9%</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It's not appropriate for my area (remote and rural)</td>
<td>4.8%</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I would like to but I can't persuade partners</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I would like to but I can't persuade neighbouring</td>
<td>4.8%</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I do not get on with the personalities in neighbouring</td>
<td>4.8%</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I do not get on with the personalities involved in the</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No CCG / LCG / Health Board support</td>
<td>28.6%</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don't know</td>
<td>9.5%</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (please specify)</td>
<td>19.0%</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

answered question 21
skipped question 27
What are the barriers to establishing a network or federation?  
(Tick all that apply)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Answer Options</th>
<th>Response Percent</th>
<th>Response Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Not clear or convinced of the benefits</td>
<td>66.7%</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It would be a threat to my practice's independence</td>
<td>33.3%</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of time</td>
<td>72.2%</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Workload pressures</td>
<td>66.7%</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geographical location</td>
<td>5.6%</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It's not a priority</td>
<td>11.1%</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It's not appropriate for my area (remote and rural)</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I would like to but I can't persuade partners</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I would like to but I can't persuade neighbouring</td>
<td>5.6%</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I do not get on with the personalities in neighbouring</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I do not get on with the personalities involved in the</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No CCG / LCG / Health Board support</td>
<td>22.2%</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>None</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don't know</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (please specify)</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

answered question 18  
skipped question 30

What type of support would you find helpful from the BMA's GP Committee?  
(Tick all that apply)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Answer Options</th>
<th>Response Percent</th>
<th>Response Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Guidance</td>
<td>63.6%</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Examples of networks or federations that have already</td>
<td>63.6%</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legal advice</td>
<td>59.1%</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human resources advice</td>
<td>47.7%</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project management support</td>
<td>56.8%</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contract checking services</td>
<td>56.8%</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support developing links between groups of practice</td>
<td>50.0%</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>None</td>
<td>9.1%</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don't know</td>
<td>11.4%</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (please specify)</td>
<td>4.5%</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

answered question 44  
skipped question 4
General Practitioners Committee (GPC) –

2014 Practice Collaboration Survey Results

Scotland

128 respondents from a possible:

4,859\(^3\) GPs working in Scotland = 3%

Headline Figures:

Fewer than one in ten (7%) respondents in Scotland are part of existing networks/federations. Only one in twenty (5%) are currently considering joining one with neighbouring practices.

Barriers

Of those not currently exploring opportunities to join a network or federation a fifth (22%) do not believe that large groups will be effective. Over a quarter (26%) believe that their practice is big enough already and a quarter (23%) believe that it would be a threat to the independence of their practice.

Over half (53%) do not view joining a network/federation as a priority.

Two in five (39%) cited workload pressures as a reason for not pursuing a network/federation.

GPC support

Two thirds of respondents (64%) would appreciate the GPC providing examples of existing networks or federations. Nearly half (42%) would like further guidance and one in five (23%) support in developing links between groups of practice.

Existing networks

Two thirds (67%) of respondent’s existing networks/federations comprised of between 2 and 10 practices, and a nearly half (44%) covered fewer than 25,000 patients.

Of respondents in existing networks/federations, more than one in two (56%) are planning on sharing policy or procedures and a third (33%) are planning to share staff.

---

\(^3\) GP Workforce in Scotland - 2004-2012, ISD Scotland.
Is your practice part of a group of practices working together (i.e. a network or federation)?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Answer Options</th>
<th>Response</th>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>Response Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>7.1%</td>
<td>9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>88.1%</td>
<td>111</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not yet, but we are currently considering it with</td>
<td>4.8%</td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

answered question 126
skipped question 2

Why is your practice not exploring opportunities to join networks or federations? (Tick all that apply)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Answer Options</th>
<th>Response</th>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>Response Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>My practice is already big enough</td>
<td>26.1%</td>
<td>29</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I do not believe large groups will be effective</td>
<td>21.6%</td>
<td>24</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It would be a threat to my practice's independence</td>
<td>23.4%</td>
<td>26</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of time</td>
<td>36.9%</td>
<td>41</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Workload pressures</td>
<td>38.7%</td>
<td>43</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Geographical location</td>
<td>22.5%</td>
<td>25</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It's not a priority</td>
<td>53.2%</td>
<td>59</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It's not appropriate for my area (remote and rural)</td>
<td>13.5%</td>
<td>15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I would like to but I can't persuade partners</td>
<td>3.6%</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I would like to but I can't persuade neighbouring</td>
<td>7.2%</td>
<td>8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I do not get on with the personalities in neighbouring</td>
<td>4.5%</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I do not get on with the personalities involved in the</td>
<td>2.7%</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No CCG / LCG / Health Board support</td>
<td>20.7%</td>
<td>23</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don't know</td>
<td>4.5%</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (please specify)</td>
<td>20.7%</td>
<td>23</td>
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answered question 111
skipped question 17
What type of support would you find helpful from the BMA's GP Committee?  
(Tick all that apply)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Answer Options</th>
<th>Response Percent</th>
<th>Response Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Guidance</td>
<td>41.6%</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Examples of networks or federations that have already</td>
<td>37.6%</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legal advice</td>
<td>30.4%</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human resources advice</td>
<td>24.8%</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project management support</td>
<td>19.2%</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contract checking services</td>
<td>22.4%</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support developing links between groups of practice</td>
<td>23.2%</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>None</td>
<td>17.6%</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don't know</td>
<td>22.4%</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (please specify)</td>
<td>8.0%</td>
<td>10</td>
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answered question 125  
skipped question 3

What is your network or federation planning to do?  
(Tick all that apply)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Answer Options</th>
<th>Response Percent</th>
<th>Response Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bid for enhanced services</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bid to deliver out of hours (OOH) services</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Share staff</td>
<td>33.3%</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Share premises</td>
<td>11.1%</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Develop community based GP with a special interest</td>
<td>22.2%</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Share policy or procedures</td>
<td>55.6%</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manage or taking over community nursing</td>
<td>11.1%</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bid to be a Challenge Fund pilot area (England only)</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provide peer support / shared education</td>
<td>55.6%</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don't know</td>
<td>22.2%</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (please specify)</td>
<td>22.2%</td>
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</tr>
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</table>

answered question 9  
skipped question 119
General Practitioners Committee (GPC) –

2014 Practice Collaboration Survey Results

Wales

74 respondents from a possible:

2,0154 GPs working in Wales = 4%

Headline Figures:

Nearly one in three (30%) respondents are part of an existing network/federation. Fewer than one in five (17%) are considering it.

Barriers

Of those not currently exploring opportunities to join a network or federation more than a quarter (29%) do not believe that large groups will be effective. A fifth (20%) believe that their practice is big enough already and a quarter (23%) believe that it would be a threat to the independence of their practice.

Almost half (48%) do not view joining a network/federation as a priority.

Two fifths (40%) cited workload pressures as a reason for not pursuing a network/federation.

GPC support

Half of respondents (52%) would appreciate the GPC providing examples of existing networks or federations. Three in five (60%) would like further guidance and almost two in five (37%) support in developing links between groups of practice.

Existing networks

Almost all (95%) of respondent’s existing networks/federations comprised of between 2 and 10 practices, with two thirds covering between 25,000 and 75,000 patients.

Of respondents in existing networks/federations, 2 in five (38%) are planning on sharing policy or procedures and almost one in two (48%) are planning to provide peer support and shared education.

---

Is your practice part of a group of practices working together (i.e. a network or federation)?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Answer Options</th>
<th>Response Percent</th>
<th>Response Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>30.4%</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>52.2%</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not yet, but we are currently considering it with</td>
<td>17.4%</td>
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</table>

*answered question* 69

*skipped question* 5

Why is your practice not exploring opportunities to join networks or federations?
(Tick all that apply)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Answer Options</th>
<th>Response Percent</th>
<th>Response Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>My practice is already big enough</td>
<td>20.0%</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I do not believe large groups will be effective</td>
<td>28.6%</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It would be a threat to my practice’s independence</td>
<td>22.9%</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of time</td>
<td>45.7%</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Workload pressures</td>
<td>40.0%</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geographical location</td>
<td>8.6%</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>It's not a priority</td>
<td>45.7%</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It’s not appropriate for my area (remote and rural)</td>
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<td>3</td>
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<tr>
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<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No CCG / LCG / Health Board support</td>
<td>34.3%</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don't know</td>
<td>2.9%</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other (please specify)</td>
<td>17.1%</td>
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*answered question* 35

*skipped question* 39
### What type of support would you find helpful from the BMA's GP Committee?
(Tick all that apply)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Answer Options</th>
<th>Response Percent</th>
<th>Response Count</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Guidance</td>
<td>59.7%</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Examples of networks or federations that have already</td>
<td>52.2%</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legal advice</td>
<td>50.7%</td>
<td>34</td>
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<td>Contract checking services</td>
<td>31.3%</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support developing links between groups of practice</td>
<td>37.3%</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>None</td>
<td>13.4%</td>
<td>9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Don't know</td>
<td>10.4%</td>
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<td>Other (please specify)</td>
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</table>

Analyzed question: 67
Skipped question: 7

### What is your network or federation planning to do?
(Tick all that apply)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Answer Options</th>
<th>Response Percent</th>
<th>Response Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bid for enhanced services</td>
<td>9.5%</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bid to deliver out of hours (OOH) services</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Share staff</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Share premises</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Develop community based GP with a special interest</td>
<td>19.0%</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Share policy or procedures</td>
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<td>Manage or taking over community nursing</td>
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<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bid to be a Challenge Fund pilot area (England only)</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Provide peer support / shared education</td>
<td>47.6%</td>
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<td>Don't know</td>
<td>23.8%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other (please specify)</td>
<td>28.6%</td>
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Analyzed question: 21
Skipped question: 53