

## WLMC February 2023 resolutions

The Annual conference of Welsh local medical committees was held on Saturday 4 February in Llandudno. The agenda highlighted the concerns of Welsh GPs around the sustainability of practices amid ever increasing workload and financial pressures.

The conference was chaired by Dr Sara Bodey (North Wales LMC) with Dr Tim Davies (North Wales LMC) as deputy chair.

Eluned Morgan, the Minister for Health and Social Services, Welsh Government, thanked the profession for their dedication in her pre-recorded conference speech. The Minister reaffirmed Welsh Government's priority to tackle the planned care backlog and outlined the main elements of the GMS contract deal 22-23 including the access commitment. She confirmed the commitment of Welsh Government to the GP partnership model, within a mixed economy where *"partners and salaried doctors all play a key role in the delivery and sustainability of GMS"*. She stated her commitment to working with the profession in delivering change that would meet the needs of everyone in Wales.

Dr Gareth Oelmann gave his report to conference as Chair of GPC Wales. He outlined that *"the significant challenges of chronic workforce shortages, years of underinvestment and backlogs in both primary and secondary care cannot be underestimated"*. He called on the profession to be bold, innovative, and united to demonstrate the commitment to fight for general practice. The link to his full speech can be found [here](#).

Dr Ian Harris, Deputy Chair of GPC Wales provided an update to delegates on the progress made by the GPC Wales committee on resolutions from the previous 2022 conference.

The conference was attended by representatives from across the five Welsh LMCs. Guests attending included Professor Phil Banfield (BMA UK Council Chair), Dr Andrew Buist (Chair of GPC UK and Scottish GPC), Dr Iona Collins (BMA Welsh Council Chair), Dr Alastair Taylor (Scottish LMC Conference chair), and Dr Richard Van Mellaerts (Deputy Chair, GPC England).

Motions for debate covered various topics including Workload, Workforce, Sustainability, Education & training and the Primary-Secondary Care Interface.

## WLMC February 2023 resolutions

Number	Theme	Proposer	Motion
1	Representation	GPC Wales	<p>Conference, it is time for you to exercise your devolved responsibility in dictating the policy direction of your GPC.</p> <p>i. Conference calls on GPCW to disregard any motions passed by UKLMC conference, in which GPC (UK or devolved) has been directed to negotiate policy in Wales, until such a motion has been passed by Welsh Conference of LMCs.</p> <p>ii. The Agenda Committee of Welsh LMC conference will consider the inclusion of any motion passed by UKLMC that directs devolved nation GPCs to create new policy.</p> <p><b>PASSED</b></p>
2	GPDF	North Wales	<p>Welsh LMCs need stability for their elected GPC Wales members and negotiators. We instruct GPC Wales to undertake a review of the requirements to provide effective representation and to report back to Welsh LMCs as constituent members of GPDF, in order to secure sufficient resource to provide this national representation or to consider other options for funding.</p> <p><b>PASSED</b></p>
3	GPDF	North Wales	<p>Conference affirms that the GPDF is a fund, set up by GPs and trusted by GPs, as our insurance fund to be used to protect General Practice in any time of need.</p> <p><b>PASSED</b></p>
4	DDRB	Gwent	<p>That this conference believes that Welsh General Practice is still best served by an independent pay review body but that it should not be restrained by government fiscal policy but truly independent and advisory. It should be allowed to consider reward in the round and take account of the impact of tax on pensions which are part of deferred pay.</p> <p><b>PASSED</b></p>
5	Sustainability	North Wales	<p>Conference believes that the current sustainability process is not fit for purpose, and that the support from Local Health Boards (LHBs) for practices at risk is at best inadequate and at worst non-existent. We call on GPCW to:</p> <p>i. work with Welsh Government and LHBs to reform the process and make it both simpler and more responsive.</p> <p>ii. mandate the provision of a meaningful support package from LHBs if a practice is found to be at high risk of collapse.</p> <p><b>PASSED</b></p>
6	Sustainability	North Wales	<p>Rising building costs are putting practices at risk of financial collapse. Conference calls on GPC Wales to task Welsh Government to:</p> <p>i. Put sufficient short term financial support (above the current contract agreement) in place to avoid contract hand-backs. <b>PASSED</b></p>

## WLMC February 2023 resolutions

			ii. Work in the medium term to de-risk the premises element of general practice along the lines of the Scottish model. <b>REFERENCE</b>
7	Sustainability	<b>Bro Taf</b>	Conference asks that Welsh Government urgently implements support measures for practices as rapid rises in utility bills are an imminent threat to the financial sustainability of primary care.
8	Sustainability	<b>North Wales</b>	That Conference urges Welsh Government and NHS Wales to review funding formulae for multisite and small rural practices to prevent further practice failures, in the spirit of the original Carr-Hill formula. <b>PASSED</b>
9	Sustainability	<b>Bro Taf</b>	Conference asks Welsh Government to recognise the increased burden of resourcing and running branch surgeries by providing a monetary uplift to practices with more than one site.
10	Sustainability	<b>Bro Taf</b>	Conference requests Welsh Government to provide financial support to practices in line with rising inflation for the purpose of sustainability and stability. <b>PASSED</b>
11	Sustainability	<b>Dyfed Powys</b>	Conference urges Welsh Government to take action to address the understandable reluctance of GPs to renew third party premises agreements, which can commit them to many thousands of pounds of ongoing debt, while there is a crisis in the recruitment of GP partners and the sustainability of general practice in Wales. <b>PASSED</b>
12	Workforce	<b>Morgannwg</b>	That Conference calls on Welsh Government to develop a short, medium and long-term workforce strategy, in conjunction with other relevant partner agencies, and to ensure that contract negotiations acknowledge the reduced capacity, accepting that 'Business as Usual' is no longer an option. <b>PASSED</b>
13	Workforce	<b>Gwent</b>	In the acknowledgement of an increasing Demand, Capacity Gap conference i. expresses concern with regards to the difficulties in recruitment and retention. ii. deplores the increasing workplace stress and burnout affecting health service staff. iii. calls on Welsh Government to urgently address these issues with credible workforce and wellbeing plans .
14	Workload	<b>North Wales</b>	Most GPs in Wales are regularly consulting at levels in excess of the 35 patient contacts a day recognised as the threshold for 'unsafe' workload by the BMA. Conference calls on GPC Wales to ensure that practical and effective steps are taken within the contract negotiations to bring

## WLMC February 2023 resolutions

			consulting rates within safe limits for the sake of patients, clinicians and the sustainability of General Practice. <b>PASSED</b>
15	Workload	<b>Agenda Committee</b>	With the legislative changes from July 2022 allowing more healthcare professionals to sign FIT notes, conference: i. deplores the fact that patients are still being directed to General Practice for these certificates ii. demands that Welsh Government and Health boards remind those providing care of their responsibility to issue an appropriate FIT note. <b>PASSED</b>
16	Workload	<b>Gwent</b>	Conference recognises the significance of fostering and adoption medicals but also that GPs often do not have the time to do this non-GMS work and recommends that GPC Wales advises local authorities to employ dedicated medical practitioners to be responsible for such medicals so they can be provided within a reasonable timescale. <b>LOST</b>
17	Workload	<b>Morgannwg</b>	Conference requests for a redacting and copying service at Health Board level to prepare records requested by patients and others under GDPR and subject access rights. <b>LOST</b>
18	Access	<b>Morgannwg</b>	Conference believes that improved continuity of relationship-based care should be encouraged in preference to access targets. <b>PASSED</b>
19	Urgent care	<b>Gwent</b>	Conference deplores that ambulance handover delays are still a major concern for patients and staff and asks that Welsh Government ensure that Health boards are not delaying ambulance releases or using ambulance staff and vehicles as additional A+E workforce, consulting space or waiting space. <b>PASSED</b>
20	Urgent care	<b>Dyfed Powys</b>	Conference demands that Welsh Government and Health Boards take action to ensure the timely provision of Ambulance services for patients, and not expect GPs to provide urgent and emergency care until the ambulance reaches the patient. <b>PASSED</b>
21	Education and Training	<b>North Wales</b>	The support offered to GP trainees who are identified as having additional learning needs is disjointed, slow and frustrating. Conference calls for a coordination hub or individual to be set up within HEIW to ensure that the relevant organisations understand what is needed and work together to ensure it is provided within a short timescale to avoid prolonged disruptions to training. <b>PASSED</b>

## WLMC February 2023 resolutions

22	Education and Training	<b>North Wales</b>	<p>Conference believes that all doctors in training in hospital-based specialities should have a compulsory 4 months experience in general practice as part of their speciality training, and calls on GPCW to lobby the relevant organisations to start discussions on how to implement this.</p> <p><b>PASSED</b></p>
23	Education and Training	<b>North Wales</b>	<p>Applicants to GP training who score under 480 on selection are very likely to need extensions to training after failing elements of the MRCGP. Conference:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. acknowledges the avoidable negative effects on the individuals of labelling these doctors as 'failing'</li> <li>ii. acknowledges the stress that short notice extensions have on the programme directors when they have to find additional placements</li> <li>iii. Calls on GPCW to work with the RCGP towards a system that will offer this cohort 4 or 5 year training at the outset rather than waiting for them to 'fail'</li> </ul> <p><b>PASSED</b></p>
24	Education and Training	<b>Gwent</b>	<p>Conference is disappointed in Welsh Government's unilateral removal of the universal training incentive scheme and calls on them to reinstate the payment of the first Applied Knowledge Test (AKT) and Clinical Skills Assessment fee for all trainees in Wales.</p> <p><b>PASSED</b></p>
25	Education and Training	<b>Morgannwg</b>	<p>Conference demand that Welsh Government rapidly extend the ability of allied health professionals to prescribe/treat/refer within the scope of their training and responsibility without sending patients to GPs.</p> <p><b>PASSED</b></p>
26	Education and Training	<b>Dyfed Powys</b>	<p>Conference advises Welsh Government that the incentives to encourage GP registrars to choose GP vocational training schemes in Mid, West and North Wales have had a positive effect, and request that it is continued to build a sustainable GP workforce in these areas.</p> <p><b>PASSED</b></p>
27	Education and Training	<b>Morgannwg</b>	<p>Conference calls on Welsh Government to develop programmes which allow students to stay close to their family homes while studying medicine.</p> <p><b>REFERENCE</b></p>
28	Climate change	<b>Morgannwg</b>	<p>Conference asks NHS Wales to measure the carbon footprint of a sample of Welsh GP Practices in order to better understand the steps needed to deliver net-zero carbon Healthcare.</p> <p><b>PASSED</b></p>

## WLMC February 2023 resolutions

29	Climate change	<b>Morgannwg</b>	Conference calls for the identification of measures to mitigate against the effects of climate change, both in regards to premises and service delivery. <b>REFERENCE</b>
30	GMS Contract	<b>North Wales</b>	The half day and lunch time closing changes within the 2022-23 contract put a disproportionate strain on small practices. Conference asks GPC Wales to ensure that reciprocal cover arrangements are recognised in subsequent contractual agreements. <b>LOST</b>
31	GMS Contract	<b>North Wales</b>	Conference calls for GPC Wales to ensure that the administrative work done by GPs is properly recognised within the contract and associated documentation (including the partnership premium), not only the clinical sessions. <b>REFERENCE</b>
32	GMS contract	<b>North Wales</b>	Conference recognises that LHBs were guilty of a contractual breach by not providing cover to facilitate practice protected learning time in the previous contractual year. We call on GPCW to ensure that in the future full cover will be mandated from LHBs for all protected learning sessions. <b>PASSED</b>
33	GMS Contract	<b>North Wales</b>	The FPPS (Family Practitioner Payment System) introduced by SSP to process payment claims is unfit for purpose and causing significant stress to our practice manager colleagues. Conference calls on GPCW to ensure that the system is urgently replaced by a more user-friendly and less onerous alternative. <b>WITHDRAWN</b>
Emergency Motion 73	GMS Contract	<b>Bro Taf</b>	Conference insists Welsh government issue a statement strongly disagreeing with the recent suggestion by the shadow UK Health Secretary the direction of travel should be towards a totally salaried service, with the phasing out of independent contractor status general practice. <b>PASSED</b>
34	GMS Contract	<b>Bro Taf</b>	Conference despairs at the thought of continuing to flog the dead horse that is our capitation-based GMS contract, and we rejuvenate our call for GPC Wales to negotiate an activity-based model. <b>LOST</b>
35	GMS Contract	<b>Morgannwg</b>	Conference urges GPC Wales to negotiate an IOS fee based unified GMS contract similar to that in place in Australia.
36	GMS Contract	<b>Bro Taf</b>	Conference requests Welsh Government formally ensure appropriate support in situations of allocation of large numbers of patients following the closure of a practice. <b>PASSED</b>

## WLMC February 2023 resolutions

37	GMS Contract	<b>Morgannwg</b>	Conference calls for maternity benefits for AHPs such as PAs to be aligned with colleagues with equivalent responsibilities or banding. <b>REFERENCE</b>
38	GMS Contract	<b>Morgannwg</b>	Conference calls for an independent and dedicated primary care occupational health and well-being service. <b>PASSED</b>
39	Collaboratives	<b>Morgannwg</b>	Conference observes that despite political desires, Clusters are not delivering improved services, Accelerated Clusters are not deemed fit for purpose and these should be scrapped, and resources transferred to core General Practice. <b>PASSED</b>
40	Collaboratives	<b>Dyfed Powys</b>	Conference urges the Welsh Government to require the HBs to allocate funding to collaboratives to facilitate the development schemes for consideration by the clusters. <b>LOST</b>
41	Primary-Secondary Care Interface	<b>Agenda Committee</b>	In light of the drive to deliver care closer to home, pathway development and the resultant workload shift from secondary care into primary care, conference calls: i. for Health boards to identify and assess the impact of any movement of service delivery. ii. for Welsh Government and Health boards to fully resource and ensure the workforce to deliver this care without compromising a practices ability to deliver existing contracts. <b>PASSED</b>
42	Primary-Secondary Care Interface	<b>Morgannwg</b>	Conference calls for WG to fund end to end costs and assess any movement of service delivery from secondary to primary care and provide primary care with the resources to deliver without compromising a practices ability to deliver existing contracts.
43	Primary-Secondary Care Interface	<b>Morgannwg</b>	Conference recognises that demand for care from general practice is increasing in scope with the drive to deliver close to home care and calls for funding to recruit to be able to support this
44	Primary-Secondary Care Interface	<b>North Wales</b>	The use of two-way communication between secondary care and primary care on the WCCG/WPRS has led to unfunded and uncontrolled work transfer. Conference calls for GPCW to urgently work with secondary care and IT colleagues to put in place clear guidance to avoid unrealistic and sometimes unsafe expectations. <b>PASSED</b>
45	Primary-Secondary Care Interface	<b>Dyfed Powys</b>	That conference reminds community, secondary and tertiary services, that WCCG/WPRS is the communication system for GP referrals, demands that they should not develop specific individual referral forms for their services and requests that HB management support GPs on this issue. <b>PASSED</b>

## WLMC February 2023 resolutions

46	Primary-Secondary Care Interface	<b>North Wales</b>	That Conference is disappointed that many hospitals are still to provide a waiting time hotline and continue to refer patients back to the GP for an expedite letter. <b>PASSED</b>
47	Primary-Secondary Care Interface	<b>North Wales</b>	That Conference urges GPCW to define intermediate care and to clarify the roles and responsibilities within its provision, so that when patients with complex needs are transferred to care homes the ongoing care is adequately funded from outside the GMS budget. <b>PASSED</b>
48	Primary-Secondary Care Interface	<b>Gwent</b>	This conference instructs a review by GPC Wales of the impact of increased requests from secondary care colleagues on practice phlebotomy services with the aim of increased funding or development of increased community provision. <b>PASSED</b>
49	Primary-Secondary Care Interface	<b>Gwent</b>	Conference is dismayed that Secondary Care are knowingly sending correspondence addressed to GPs who have resigned, retired or died and to GP surgeries that are closed. Conference demands that Health Boards instruct secondary care to stop this unsafe practice and ensure that letters are addressed correctly. <b>PASSED</b>
50	Primary-Secondary Care Interface	<b>Morgannwg</b>	Conference calls for the transference of inappropriate and unfunded work to GPs to stop and for a dashboard of All Wales Communication Standard Breaches to drive up standards across the complete health care system. <b>PASSED</b>
51	Primary-Secondary Care Interface	<b>Morgannwg</b>	To reduce the clinical risk of data being overlooked or buried, conference calls for: i. a concise standard format discharge summary relevant to primary care to become compulsory. <b>REFERENCE</b> ii. compulsory inclusion of amended medications and changes to the management plan. <b>PASSED</b>
52	Primary-Secondary Care Interface	<b>Morgannwg</b>	Conference calls for an amendment to be made to the All Wales Communications Standard to reflect that any secondary care consultation that is undertaken 'remotely' must include the responsibility to organise face to face examinations within secondary care if necessary. <b>PASSED</b>
53	Primary-Secondary Care Interface	<b>Morgannwg</b>	Conference calls for the development of a nationally agreed process for Physician Associates to be able to request radiographic imaging which does not involve ionising radiation. <b>PASSED</b>
54	Equality	<b>Gwent</b>	That conference: i. recognises the passing of the British Sign Language Act in June 2022 and acknowledges the barriers facing many of the Deaf Community in accessing Health Services. ii. asks HEIW to start breaking down the barriers by

## WLMC February 2023 resolutions

			providing resources and training support for all practice staff to engage in Deaf Awareness training. <b>PASSED</b>
55	Health Boards	<b>North Wales</b>	Conference directs GPC Wales to instruct the Welsh Audit Office to examine the value for money obtained when managed practices are run by LHBs within Wales. <b>PASSED</b>
56	Health Boards	<b>Gwent</b>	Conference is concerned at the lack of communication and delay in investigating complaints against GPs by health boards and demands that health boards keep doctors regularly informed of proceedings. <b>PASSED</b>
57	Health Boards	<b>Morgannwg</b>	Conference calls for urgent action from Welsh Government to address shortages in District Nursing team. <b>PASSED</b>
58	Immunisations	<b>Dyfed Powys</b>	Conference requests GPC Wales to resist any attempt to require GP practices to use the current WIS for the flu vaccination campaign. <b>REFERENCE</b>
59	Immunisations	<b>Morgannwg</b>	Conference calls for GPCW to negotiate out of all vaccine programmes and design new SLAs. <b>LOST</b>
60	Prescribing & Dispensing	<b>North Wales</b>	Conference believes that interpreting the 'mile from a community pharmacy' rule in terms of 'as the crow flies' has unexpected consequences for patients access to dispensing services and calls on GPCW to press for a change in the Dispensing Regulations. <b>PASSED</b>
61	Prescribing & Dispensing	<b>Gwent</b>	Due to the advice to change to 56-day prescribing and the reduction in dispensing fees, conference instructs GPC Wales to work with Welsh Government to provide additional funding mechanisms for dispensing practices. <b>REFERENCE</b>
Emergency Motion 72	Prescribing & Dispensing	<b>Morgannwg</b>	In view of the supply problems experienced in December, dealing with the panic over Group A strep infections, Conference calls for Welsh Government to adopt different mechanisms of updating serious shortage protocols. <b>PASSED</b>
62	Media	<b>Agenda Committee</b>	Conference deplores the vile and unhelpful comments about GPs and their practices in the mainstream media and on social media and recommends that i. Health boards are instructed to not allow the public to comment on their social media posts. <b>REFERENCE</b> ii. Health boards and Welsh Government promote the positive achievements of primary care to the media instead of just reacting to negative news stories. <b>PASSED</b> iii. Welsh Government fund a campaign to educate the

## WLMC February 2023 resolutions

			public on reasonable expectations of access to general practice. <b>PASSED</b>
63	Media	<b>Gwent</b>	Conference deplores the vile and unhelpful comments about GPs and their practices on social media and recommends that Health boards are instructed to not allow the public to comment on their social media posts.
64	Media	<b>Gwent</b>	This conference requests that health boards promote the positive achievements of primary care to the media instead of just reacting to negative news stories.
65	Media	<b>Morgannwg</b>	Conference calls for Welsh Government to fund a campaign to educate the public on reasonable access and counter the negative attitudes to general practice portrayed in the media.
66	Mental Health	<b>Gwent</b>	Conference calls for: i. Welsh Government to improve mental health services for young adults and adolescents caught between paediatric and adult services. ii. Welsh Government to increase funding of children's mental health services to increase capacity so that mental health problems can be dealt with earlier rather than accepting referrals only when children have reached the point of crisis. <b>PASSED</b>
67	Pensions	<b>Gwent</b>	Conference calls for Locum GPs who are a member of the NHS Pension Scheme to receive the same death in-service benefit as other types of GPs should they die on a day when they are not due to be in work. <b>PASSED</b>
68	Premises	<b>Gwent</b>	That conference acknowledges that large areas of the General Practice estate are not fit for purpose and that LHBs urgently commit to support practices to address this by enhanced improvement grants. <b>PASSED</b>
69	Private services	<b>Bro Taf</b>	Conference calls on Welsh Government to clearly define for the public and health boards what follow up is and is not available within NHS Wales for patients following private health care. <b>PASSED</b>
70	Public health	<b>Gwent</b>	This conference calls on Welsh Government to accept that non communicable diseases are the leading cause of mortality in Wales and to make enough up-front funding available to provide a world-class service incorporating lifestyle medicine with accredited health coaching as an innovative way to reduce medication burden, waiting lists, long term sickness benefits and prevalence of chronic disease.

## WLMC February 2023 resolutions

			<b>REFERENCE</b>
71	Regulation	<b>North Wales</b>	Conference directs GPC Wales to: i. send a strong message of concern to the GMC regarding both direct and indirect discrimination in fitness to practice procedures ii. urge the organisation to institute changes to their organisational culture and processes to eliminate the risk of discrimination in these procedures in the future <b>PASSED</b>
Emergency Motion 74	Any other business	<b>North Wales</b>	We call for the suspension of conference from 2:15pm until 4:00pm to address other pressing matters! <b>LOST</b>