

COMMUNICATION TO ALL KINGSTON, RICHMOND AND CROYDON PRACTICES -

4th November 2021

Dear Colleagues

Regarding: WINTER ACCESS FUND - SWL PRACTICE SURVEY.

SWLondon CCG have sent an email to all GP practices informing them about the funding attached to the Winter Access Fund and asking for practices to complete a brief survey to be returned by 8th November. Surrey and Sussex LMCs have had some queries from practices and believe we can add some clarity to SWLs covering email which may help everyone.

As has been made abundantly clear, there is a considerable amount of funding attached to this initiative; funding which could usefully be utilised by general practice depending on the terms of such an allocation. We believe that three primary principles should be met, before practices fully engage. They are:

1. NHSE should **not** insist on a 20% practice performance process, naming the lowest performing practices based on flawed data
2. That the schemes suggested to provide resilience support and access in general practice provide **real** assistance at an incredibly challenging time.
3. That it is explicitly clear as to what reporting mechanism, (and we accept there will need to be accountability for the funding), will be used, and that this is not onerous or part of any performance management process.

The detail of points 2 and 3 above is still unknown at present but before a review of the ultimate terms can take place the funding must be approved, and that means that the plan which SWLondon CCG submits must be accepted by NHS England. The plan should highlight how the funds will be used at various levels, including Boroughs, PCNs and practices. Whilst some ideas have already been shared, the SWLondon team need to scope from all practices what they feel would be the best means of utilising the funds, should the plan be accepted. You will only receive communications from the SWLondon team as they are responding on a pan SWL basis.

It is important to note that completing and returning the survey **does not in any way commit you or your practice to participate in the scheme**. It will however help SWLondon CCG team to construct a comprehensive plan, based on practice returns, which should maximise its chances of acquiring the funds, which hopefully many will benefit from. We believe that at this stage practices should keep their options open and not unwittingly turn down something which may be in their favour.

Local Medical Committees for
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Once the outcome is known along with the terms and conditions, (see principles above), practices can make an informed decision as to whether they wish to engage.

The LMC has been in close contact and discussions with the SWL team, and we believe that we each have a good understanding of our respective positions. On this basis at present, SSLMCs position and advice to practices is to continue to engage with this Access Fund process.

For ease we include the link and contact details. <https://forms.office.com/r/iQpxyUTKNY> to be **completed by 9am on Monday 8 November.**

If you require any support with the survey, please contact: SWLHCP.SWLPrimaryCare@nhs.net

Alternatively, if you require any further assistance at this stage, please contact the LMC Office.

With best wishes

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Julius', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dr Julius Parker
Chief Executive