

To: All GP Practices in Surrey and Sussex LMCs

6th March 2017

Dear Colleagues

General Practice Health (GPH)

I am writing to all colleagues within Surrey and Sussex to note the extension of the General Practice Health service to Surrey and Sussex. This is part of the extension of the service, known as the Practitioner Health Programme (PHP) in London, across England, as agreed with NHS England as part of their GP Forward View commitments.

The GPH Lead within South East England is Dr Kate Little (GP and Clinical Lead for NHS GP Health Service) who is responsible for raising awareness of this service, and co-ordinating its availability for GP colleagues. The LMC is pleased to be working very closely with Dr Little and if you have any queries regarding the programme, please email her at: kate.little1@nhs.net; I enclose an information leaflet with my letter.

At present, whilst local services are being established, it is likely that GP colleagues who may need to access the service will do so in London, where the current PHP service will act as an initial assessment service for contacting GPs.

The GPH programme is a self-referral service only; it is entirely confidential so that organisations, such as the LMC, which may signpost the service to GPs, do not have any contact with the service and indeed are not told whether or not a GP even contacts it. This service is separate both to the GP practice occupational health service, which will be available locally from April 2017, and also any medical assessments NHS England may arrange as part of its Medical Performers List responsibilities.

Over 2017 more local services will be developed within Surrey and Sussex as part of the GP Health programme, ensuring GP colleagues easier access to this GP service.

In the interim, all GPs should ensure they are registered with their own General Practitioner, in a practice separate to their own. This is expected under GMC 'Good Medical Practice' and also an expected declaration as part of your NHS appraisal, and is an important part of ensuring the availability of independent, impartial healthcare if this is needed. The LMC would also encourage General Practitioners to make exceptions to their normal practice registration policy for medical colleagues if this facilitates such arrangements, and ensure flexibility is offered in terms of, for example, access to appointments, in a way you would yourself appreciate.

Local Medical Committees for
Croydon, Kingston & Richmond, Surrey,
East Sussex and West Sussex

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If any colleague wishes to discuss the GPH programme, or for whom the LMC can be of assistance, please contact the LMC Office or Dr Little on: kate.little1@nhs.net.

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'JP', followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Dr Julius Parker
Chief Executive

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