

Neighbourhoods update

We are aware that in many areas practices may be feeling under pressure to agree to new neighbourhood working models, with little involvement in development of the proposals and a significant lack of information on the impact that it will have on them, their practices or their patients.

Concerns have also been highlighted around funding and resources being taken away or linked to other LCSs if they don't engage with the Neighbourhood agenda.

As the BMA has [previously highlighted](#) the proposals for neighbourhood health services, including the development of Single Neighbourhood Providers (SNPs), Multi Neighbourhood Providers (MNPs) and Integrated Health Organisations (IHOs) could have a significant impact on practices. National plans around the implementation of these remains extremely unclear, particularly around the contracting and resourcing of this work.

We know that practices may be being asked to sign up to local proposals without clear commitments from ICBs and local systems around funding, workload implications, estates utilisation and use of patient data ([which GPCE's ongoing collective action has highlighted should be a particular area of concern for practices](#)).

As the newly elected Officer Team for GPC England we are keen to make this a focus over the coming months and will be producing further guidance for practices over how to engage with these proposals in a way that protects themselves and their patients, and building upon the principles previously published by GPCE in response to [ICB model blueprint](#) and [the National Neighbourhood Health Implementation Programme](#).

In the meantime, we would like to reassure practices that they do not have to, and should not be pressured to, sign up to local neighbourhood proposals. There must be full and meaningful engagement with practices and LMCs to ensure there is appropriate governance in place as well as ring-fenced budgets for key areas especially around resourcing left shift of work, protections around sharing confidential data and proper utilisation of estates.

If you feel you are under such pressure, please contact the BMA at info.gpc@bma.org.uk and we will seek to help and support you.

Best wishes

Dr Clare Bannon, *Chair, GPC England*

Dr Manu Agrawal, *Deputy Chair, GPC England*

Dr David Wrigley, *Deputy Chair, GPC England*

Dr Shan Hussain, *Deputy Chair, GPC England*

