

# Nottinghamshire Local Medical Committee

Representing and supporting GPs

5 Phoenix Place  
Nottingham  
NG8 6BA  
Tel: 0115 977 1341  
Fax: 0115 998 6715  
Email: [office@nottslmc.co.uk](mailto:office@nottslmc.co.uk)

9 January 2020

Letter to all Notts LMC GP practices

Dear Colleague,

**Re: Follow up response to the draft Primary Care Network (PCN) Service Specifications 2020**

Dear colleagues

On Monday, we circulated our position statement on the draft PCN service specs (see below) and early feedback to us has evidenced that our strength of feeling about this is possibly lost in the diplomatic wording somewhat. I must ensure that you are all clear of your representative body's view on this situation.

As folk who follow me on Twitter will know, I am very damning on the draft specifications as they stand currently – this may not have come across as clearly as intended through our position statement.

I wish to put on record, as your LMC CEO, that:

- I completely reject the draft PCN service specs as they currently stand, some of the aims are ok but some of the operational details miss the point and the funding is frankly risible
- I hold NHSE/I responsible for potentially turning off the profession at the very time that the PCNs need support to grow and make a difference
- I hope that the GPC can turn this draft into something worth signing up to, however, any PCN CD that steps down as a result of this and any practice that decides against signing up to the PCN DES from April 2020 will get our support if the changes to the draft are not sufficient
- I believe that if it is not changed sufficiently, NHSE/I's actions will further destabilise general practice and damage the credibility of our national commissioners which is still bruised following the PCSE/Capita debacle
- The future of general practice is at stake and PCNs being held up as part of the solution means recurrent investment up front and transparent
- I strongly oppose the draft specs as written and we feel angry and let down on behalf of our GPs, additional staff, manager etc who are working hard outside of the day job to try to make PCNs a success
- I feel affronted on behalf of practices by how misguided NHSE/I have acted through this period, and feel that the goodwill of those putting themselves forward to lead PCNs is being taken for granted

# Nottinghamshire Local Medical Committee

Representing and supporting GPs

5 Phoenix Place  
Nottingham  
NG8 6BA  
Tel: 0115 977 1341  
Fax: 0115 998 6715  
Email: [office@nottslmc.co.uk](mailto:office@nottslmc.co.uk)

The next steps are that NHSE needs to hear you and our strength of feeling (by 15 January 2020) <https://www.engage.england.nhs.uk/survey/primary-care-networks-service-specifications/consultation/intro/> and we need to give the GPC the very clear steer (which I feel they have) that this is a non-starter without significant reshaping and considerable changes to the funding model (i.e. start again and fund it properly).

Between 15 January and the end of March, GPC will be in negotiations with NHSE over this and our understanding on how we got here is that GPC were not able to feed into what NHSE sent out. They are going to start their involvement as soon as the deadline for responses passes.

This is a non-starter as it is, it's not fit for purpose, we're angry at how this has come out over the festive period with a short deadline for responses and a very restricted way of gathering your feedback. This has to change or else PCNs may stop before they've really started and we MUST look after our GPs/practices on this one to enable the high quality care that you provide to your patients.

This situation is unacceptable.

We want you to feel supported and represented and we are responsible only to you.

Yours sincerely,



Michael Wright  
Chief Executive

Enclosure:

Appendix A – Draft Primary Care Network Service Specs 2020  
[https://www.engage.england.nhs.uk/survey/primary-care-networks-service-specifications/supporting\\_documents/Draft%20PCN%20Service%20Specifications%20December%202019.pdf](https://www.engage.england.nhs.uk/survey/primary-care-networks-service-specifications/supporting_documents/Draft%20PCN%20Service%20Specifications%20December%202019.pdf)