**Islington Borough GP Forum (**MS Teams video conferencing)

14:00–16:00 18th March 2021

**Chair**: Dr Imogen Bloor (Clinical Lead for Primary Care: NCL CCG Islington directorate)

# Introduction Dr Imogen Bloor (IB):

SEMH**:** At the HSJ Awards on 17th March, the Integration of Social, Emotional and Mental Health Services (SEMH) for Children and Young (CYP) People in the London Borough of Islington was given a HIGHLY COMMENDED award in the category of Integrated Care Partnership of the Year.

GP Forum dates 2021/22**:** Invitations for future meetings will be sent out on Friday 19th March. Meetings will continue to be held via MS Teams until further notice.

INC meetings:Meetings have now all restarted. Further to notice given in November 2019, practices will now be paid based on the duration and frequency of attendance at meetings.

Referral Support Service**:**The RSS has paused its recruitment of new practices in recognition of the other priorities for primary care at this time. Practices who are already using the RSS should continue to do so. A decision whether to restart recruitment will take place at the end of April.

The RSS seeks to help manage waiting lists by ensuring that patients have an informed choice of where and when they would like to be seen for their care. It also ensures that the right level of information goes to the provider.

**FORUM NOTES:**

1. **Post covid syndrome:** Presented by Dr Katie Coleman

KC stressed that the term Post Covid Syndrome is relatively new and most patients will still refer to it as Long Covid. She stressed that GPs should use whatever term is used by the patient, however in EMIS records the condition should be referred to a “Post Covid Syndrome” or “PCS”.

Evidence of PCS is often visible after just 6 weeks and if other infections can be ruled out then a referral to the PCS MDT would be justified. There are roughly around 50 patients per practice with PCS.

It is a multi-system disease and the new PCS pathway provides a highly comprehensive and holistic MDT to support patients in recovery (including cardiology, urology, neurology, MSK, etc. as well as community support, including a new EPP module). Referral is through a single point of access.

Primary care initial assessment documentation is on the GP Website and an EMIS PCS template is being developed and will be deployed in early April.

# Learning Disabilities: Presented by Dr John McGrath/Dr Polly Wootton/Dr Mel Gardner

* LeDeR report highlighted the Covid LD mortality rate is 6 times the general population rate. The death rate for <40s has been 30 times higher, due to underlying risk factors and access to care.
* The dedicated vaccination clinics have been very successful and planning for future dates is ongoing. Uptake rates Flu 46% and Covid 67% (as of March 21)
* Health checks – practice performance has increased year on year, however there remains wide variation across practices. Support from the QIST this year has highlighted [suggested good practice](Presentations/LD%20Shared%20Learning%20Power%20Point%20(1).pptx). Key messages includes ensuring LD registers are updated and approaching patient contact in an organised way by involving the whole practice team (including administrators) with flexibility in appointments
* The LD QI QOF model will continue next year, and annual health checks remain incentivised by the national DES payment and the PCN impact and investment fund.
* Practices encouraged to utilise ILDP practice liaison meetings and hospital liaison nurses for support. Details are on the GP website: <https://gps.northcentrallondonccg.nhs.uk/service/islington-learning-disabilities-partnership-ildp-islington>

# Homelessness: Presented by Georgina Earthy and Dr Seema Pattni (Haringey Health Inclusion Lead)

* Homeless people are a highly complex and high risk group and have significantly poorer outcomes from ill health and a reduced life expectancy. A group has recently been set up to review the current “pathway” into primary care for rough sleepers and homeless people and to understand the challenges and opportunities to improving access to primary care for these cohorts. The group includes Georgina Earthy (GE), Dr Polly Wootton (GP, Killick Street), Dr Sarah Humphery (Whittington integrated care lead), Hannah Green (specialist substance misuse nurse) and Phil Wrigley (CCG)
* Aim to increase the number of rough sleeper/homeless people who are attending primary care. There are roughly around 50 to 70 highly complex patients in this cohort, however it is difficult to understand their needs fully as they rarely attend their practices.
* The pandemic has reduced the number of street homeless in Islington to around 5 from pre-covid numbers of >50. Patients have been housed in hotels and shelters and work has been undertaken to ensure that they are all registered with local GP practices.
* SP provided an update on the Haringey outreach model which was set up during the start of the pandemic and funded with covid monies. It runs three days a week and is MDT based with intensive input from a paramedic. Currently seeing 4 patients per day but this will increase to 8. The Outreach takes place at sleep sites or hostels. SP stressed that whilst these patients are highly complex, the skills needed to support them are core GP skills, such as palliative care and frailty. The main concern is how to ensure consistent follow ups as the patients tend to roam and may have moved out of the borough by the time they need to be seen again – this issue has not yet been resolved.
* SP stressed the importance of coding rough sleeper/homeless people so that they can be referred appropriately; it also helps with monitoring and evaluating how services are reaching these people
* Any GP wishing to join or contribute to the Islington Homelessness group should contact Phil Wrigley ([pwrigley@nhs.net](mailto:pwrigley@nhs.net) )

# Carers Strategy and Primary Care Engagement: Presented by Ruby Pearce and Elisabeth Koduthore (IB)

* The Council is reviewing its current offer for carers in Islington with a view to recommissioning the carers hub but also improving how we support carers internally
* Input is requested from GPs to provide more background on how formal and informal carers can be better identified, coded and directed to services. The full range of questions is included in the presentation

Please contact:

* Ruby Pearce: [Ruby.Pearce@islington.gov.uk](mailto:Ruby.Pearce@islington.gov.uk)
* Elizabeth Konduthore: [Elisabeth.Koduthore@islington.gov.uk](mailto:Elisabeth.Koduthore@islington.gov.uk)

# QIST LTC Inequalities Offer: Presented by Shaine Mehta and Dr Karl Roberts

* Covid-19 has further highlighted inequalities in society and the impact on health. Patients with missed reviews from vulnerable groups and poorly controlled LTCs are more at risk of hospitalisation.
* NHS England have mandated that practices use risk stratification tools to help prioritise reviews for long term condition care; QOF income protection is contingent to this
* NCL CCG have commissioned UCLP to provide LTC risk stratification searches and framework
* Islington GP federation QI team have developed a suite of searches which practices can use to identify patients who exhibit vulnerable characteristics and who have missed LTC reviews.
* The QI team have an ongoing offer of coaching to support primary care to use these searches and successfully embed into practice processes. The full support offer is detailed [here](https://islingtongpfederation.us19.list-manage.com/track/click?u=c0edab3c1340ed4e3daf4ad76&id=82f9d6ff8b&e=a697eea526), including links to 3 short videos to highlight the local impact.

# Governing Body updates

Update from Dr John McGrath

* Integrated Care meetings: JMc drew attention to the fortnightly Thursday morning Integrated Care meetings attended by commissioners, primary care leads and clinical directors, IGPF and the community locality teams, as well as representatives from the Whittington and CIFT. The meetings seek to increase dialogue between partners and embed a collaborative approach as we shift towards becoming a formal Integrated Care System in 2022. If practices can suggest any areas for discussion relating to integration, Dr McGrath and Clare Henderson (NCL CCG, local Director of Integration) will raise them in future meetings
* Clinical Interface Group (CIG) Meetings: there are now regular interface meetings for Whittington and UCLH. These provide an opportunity to discuss issues relating to the interface between primary, community and secondary care services. They are well established and are very proactive – if GPs wish to raise any issues please contact John McGrath for UCLH and Sarah Humphery ([sarah.humphery2@nhs.net](mailto:sarah.humphery2@nhs.net) ) or Phil Wrigley ([pwrigley@nhs.net](mailto:pwrigley@nhs.net) )for Whittington
* Induction events: These events are now being run by the training hub and whilst historically they have been for registrars and GPs new to Islington, they have been opened out to the wider workforce (pharmacists, SPLWs, etc.).

Update from Dr Jo Sauvage

* Emerging ICS: Dr Sauvage thanked all members of the Islington primary care teams for their commitment to delivering primary care in challenging times whilst also responding to the wide ranging changes in the CCG which took place at the same time as the pandemic took hold.

JS discussed the place that primary care holds within the emerging ICS and assured the group that the voice of primary care is crucial to the development of this system wide organisation.

* Richard Watts: JS informed the group that Richard Watts (leader of Islington Council) has decided not to stand for re-election in the upcoming elections. She stressed what a supportive influence he has been over the last few years and how he has always ensured that the collective voice of general practice has been observed and valued in the work that he has overseen.
* Finsbury Park Mosque – pop up vaccination clinic: Prince Charles and Camilla attended the pop up clinic on Tuesday this week. It provided a great opportunity to publicise how Islington is pulling together as a community to address health inequalities, with clinical, community and faith leaders all working collaboratively for the good of the local population.

# Any Other Business (IB)

Dr Bloor retirement**:** Dr Bloor informed the meeting that she will be retiring in June 2021 after almost 40 years in general practice in Islington. Imogen will still be with us for a proper farewell at the next meeting, and we hope to be able to join together in person later in the year to celebrate her friendship and the great commitment she has given to supporting primary care in Islington.

Next meeting will take place on the 20th May 2021– MS Teams invitations have already been circulated. Please forward the invitation to all staff who wish to attend or contact Phil Wrigley for an invitation: [pwrigley@nhs.net](about:blank).

***Dates for 2021/22 meetings:***

***20th May 2021 22nd July 2021***

***23rd September 2021 18th November 2021***

***20th January 2022 24th March 2022***