

STW GP NEWSLETTER

WORK
OPPORTUNITIES

WHAT'S NEW IN
GENERAL PRACTICE

NETWORKS FOR
ALL GPs



INTRODUCTION

By Dr Lorna Clarson

As the STW ICB Chief Medical Officer, and Executive Director for Primary Care, I would like to welcome you to the first edition of the STW Newsletter for GPs. As a GP myself I understand how challenging the current climate is for you all and am keen that we share with you the work taking place to support GP recruitment and retention, as such, I'm pleased that the ICB has invested in a number of lead roles to develop projects and initiatives to address these challenges.

Included in this newsletter is information on various networks and groups of GPs with upcoming events, an update on the GP/ARRS situation and details of GP education events. If you have any thoughts on how this newsletter can be improved, please contact the STW ICB GP Recruitment and Retention lead, Dr Serena Jones: stw.gprecruitmentandretentionlead@nhs.net



DR LORNA CLARSON

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Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin
Primary Care Training Hub



WORK OPPORTUNITIES

Given the national, regional and local challenges faced by many GPs, particularly locums and newly qualified GPs, in finding work, the ICB has been working with local NHS Trusts to identify any opportunities for under-employed GPs. To date we've established a few alternative roles available to all GPs including work within the Addiction services and SATH Bank.

In addition, following the inclusion of GPs in the ARRS, we have been working with PCNs to identify eligible GPs who are interested in these roles – (see below for more on this).

We are continuing to work with local NHS Trusts to identify further opportunities and are currently having some interesting positive conversations with RJAH and SATH on proposed development/succession planning for GPWER positions with some ICB funding available to support some of the training required. ENT is one of the first areas that we are focusing on. If you are interested in any of these potential opportunities please contact [Dr Serena Jones](#)

ICB CANCER PROGRAMME

The ICB Cancer Programme Team puts on regular lunch-time sessions and is currently scoping areas of interest for inclusion for February 25 & March 25 sessions. These dates will be advertised to practices asap. To access all previous sessions follow [this link](#).

ARRS AND GPS

From October 1st, 2024, PCNs have been able to recruit and claim reimbursement for General Medical Practitioners (GPs). This is a significant change to the ARRS and a welcome move, but the eligibility criteria for reimbursement are quite tight: a) You must have CCT'd within the past two years and b) must NOT have previously held a substantive role in General Practice (there is, however, some local discretion around this second criteria).

The ICB has been working with local GPs and PCNs to identify potential recruits and, to date, nearly 10 GPs have either been appointed, or are in the process of appointment, under the ARRS. Funding for these roles, which was previously only guaranteed up to the end of March 2025, will continue into the 2025/26 financial year. For more information on their role in your area, please contact your appropriate PCN Clinical Director.



GP PARTNERS

The ICB has carried out a survey of the current and future pressures on the number of GP Partners in STW practices – thanks to all of you who responded. The survey is part of a wider piece of work that the ICB is planning, to identify the support needs of GP Partners. It has been recognised that locally we may see a large amount of our GP workforce retiring in the next 5 years. A report summarising the findings and setting out some recommendations and actions will be produced, and shared with practices, soon.

STW'S FIRST ANNUAL GP CONFERENCE

Ticketed evening educational event, followed by a networking session where you can enjoy a 3-course meal with colleagues. Dress to impress. Friday 11th April 2025...more to follow!

This and the network groups below are supported by the ICB

PLTs

The sessions will cover various "Top Topics" within general practice. A full agenda for the session will be shared with staff in due course

Shrewsbury & North Shropshire:
5 March 2025

Telford & South Shropshire:
13 March 2025

First 5 Network

Has been developed to create a community for, and to provide support to, early year GPs in the Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin localities, regardless of where you have trained, what role you currently have, or what your plans are for the future. We want to support you in your continuing professional development, feel at home in the local area, and know where to turn for guidance. We achieve this through educational and networking events, online and in person social groups, linking you up with local employers, and being a point of contact for any concerns you may have. If you are within your first 5 years of CCT, working in STW as a GP, and wish to join, we would love to hear from you by [emailing](#)

Wise 5 Network

For all our 'wiser' GPs, those within 5 years of possible retirement/ leaving the profession (we won't hold you to that) - a group to share problems and access to educational and support events. If you would like to join this group, please [email](#).

Locum Network

For anyone that does regular or ad hoc locum sessions in STW. The locum list is regularly shared with the local practices. It also offers training, case discussions and networking.

Meetings this year will include BLS, safeguarding, case discussions and networking events. [Email](#) if you would like to join.

Mid GP Network

A brand new network group for those of you who are no longer a First 5 nor yet a Wise 5! A group for support, education and networking.

If you would like to join this group please [email](#).



GP LOCUM BOOKINGS

The practices have already been informed that Latum will be decommissioned locally from April 2025. The ICB recognises that, for the small number of practices who regularly use the platform, this may cause some inconvenience, and we are talking to Lantum about possible transitional arrangements.

For the longer term, the ICB are working with the Shropshire Sessional GP Network to upgrade the webpage to allow direct bookings for our local pool of locum Doctors - this should be live by April 2025.

FELLOWSHIPS

STW ICB has been running the NHSE national GP Fellowship Scheme (for newly-qualified GPs) for the past four years. However, following the NHS announcement of funding cuts, the scheme has not been able to take any new recruits since April 2024. However, the existing 15 GP Fellows are still being funded to participate in a range of development and learning opportunities. For GPs who have qualified since April 2024 the ICB is funding a limited scheme for the rest of the current financial year. In addition the ICB is hoping to provide some form of support for newly-qualified GPs into 2025/26.

EDI

The ICB is committed to working within established Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) good practice, to ensure that all GPs (and all other Practice staff) have a positive experience at work, regardless of their ethnicity, age, gender, disability or faith. Although, there is no dedicated ICB EDI Lead for Primary Care at present, we would encourage any GPs who have concerns about any aspect of their working arrangements to contact the ICB GP Recruitment and Retention Lead, Dr Serena Jones, to discuss their concerns. The one area where there is funded support is for IMG GPs who are supported by Dr Gideon Eyitemi (see below).

Key contacts for GPs in STW:

- Recruitment and Retention Lead: Dr Serena Jones stw.gprecruitmentandretentionlead@nhs.net
- Marketing Lead: Dr Rachel Sissons stw.gpmarketinglead@nhs.net
- GP Trainee Differential Attainment Leads (role share): Dr Rachael Hayhurst rachaelhayhurst@nhs.net & Dr Gideon Eyitemi gideon.eyitemi@nhs.net
- Education Leads: Dr Melanie Thompson melanie.thompson20@nhs.net and Dr Damien Thompson damien.thompson@nhs.net
- Mentor Leads: Dr Melanie Thompson melanie.thompson20@nhs.net and Dr Rachel Taylor rachel.taylor3@nhs.net
- GP Fellowship Clinical Lead: Dr Priya George priya.george4@nhs.net
- GP First 5 Network Lead: Dr Helen Lloyd stw.first5@nhs.net
- STW ICB Primary Care Workforce Lead: Phil Morgan philip.morgan3@nhs.net

