

STW GP NEWSLETTER

MEET A LOCAL
GP

WHAT'S NEW IN
GENERAL PRACTICE

NETWORKS FOR
ALL GPs



LOCUM UNEMPLOYMENT

The BMA recently conducted a Virtual rally to address the growing issue of unemployment among sessional GPs.

It highlighted that nationally 4/5 GP locums are struggling to find work, despite high patient demand. Contributory factors included the ARRS scheme. Unfortunately this is leading to a high amount of GPs leaving or planning to leave the NHS.

The BMA campaign is:

- 1) Increase media attention highlighting the discrepancy.
- 2) Encouraging GPs to write to their MPs: [See link](#)
- 3) Highlighting the value for money a GP offers the NHS.
- 4) Calls for increased funding in General Practice.

The local ICB has responded to the local under/un-employment situation by securing some funding for posts at Shropcom, RJA and MPFT for GPs with special interests.





WORKING WITH OVERSEAS DOCTORS ON VTS MEET DR. GIDEON EYITEMI – DIFFERENTIAL ATTAINMENT LEAD STW ICB.

Moving to a new country is never easy, especially when navigating a demanding career like medicine. I know this journey all too well. As one of two Differential Attainment Leads in Shropshire, Telford, and Wrekin, I'm dedicated to ensuring that international medical graduates (IMGs) not only survive but thrive in their new home.

I graduated from the University of Ilorin, Nigeria, in 2011, with a passion for making a difference in people's lives. I trained in obstetrics and gynaecology, as well as orthopaedics, before making the life-changing move to the UK in 2018. My first role in the NHS was at Shrewsbury A&E—a fast-paced, high-pressure environment that taught me a lot about the UK healthcare system. From there, I transitioned into GP training, and I'm now a proud partner at Severn Fields Medical Practice, where I enjoy being part of a team that serves the local community.

Having personally experienced the challenges of settling into a new country, I am passionate about supporting others who are on the same path. In my role as Differential Attainment Lead, I provide guidance on everything from exam preparation to pastoral support. I understand that it's not just about passing exams—it's about feeling at home. Whether it's visa advice, help with securing accommodation, or even practical things like getting a driver's license, I am committed to making life easier for IMGs and newly qualified GPs in the region.

But life isn't all about work! I'm a devoted husband to my amazing wife, Ebun, who is also a GP working at Knockin Medical Practice. Together, we are proud parents to two wonderful children, Olivia and Oliver, who keep us on our toes and fill our home with laughter.

Outside of medicine, I'm a die-hard Arsenal fan (yes, I still believe we'll win the league soon!) and never miss a chance to play five-a-side football with friends on Wednesday nights. I'm also actively involved in my church community, finding strength and purpose in faith and fellowship.

For me, being a doctor is about more than just medicine—it's about people, community, and making sure no one feels alone in their journey. I know what it's like to start over in a new place, and I'm determined to make sure others feel welcomed, supported, and empowered to succeed.



MENSTRUATION FRIENDLY ORGANISATIONS

25% of women say menstruation impacts on their career.

It's not just about fostering a supportive and open work environment; it's a strategic move that positions your organisation as a leader in diversity, inclusion, and employee well-being, and can save organisations money lost in absenteeism.

Key legislative frameworks, such as the Equality Act 2010, the Employment Rights Act, and the Health and Safety at Work Act, mandate employers to ensure the well-being of their staff, which encompasses considerations related to menstruation and menopause.

Considerations to make your workplace more menstruation friendly include:

- Keeping menstruation products in staff bathrooms
- Having a reasonable adjustment policy incorporating menstruation, menopause and any other conditions that affect ability to work.

Some useful resources on becoming a menstruation friendly practice can be found [here](#).



PLTs

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

Shrewsbury & North Shropshire:
5th June 2025

Telford & South Shropshire:
18th June 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](#).

SHREWSBURY PCN - GP ARRS ROLE UPDATE

At Shrewsbury PCN we work collaboratively whenever possible and the introduction of the GP ARRS roles presented us with a new challenge - how to embed a traditionally single practice-based role across 11 Practices on what initially appeared to be an unattractive salary?

We set about designing a Shared Network GP role that was mid-way between an ST3 and a full salaried GP, with 15 minute appointments, protected admin time, supervisory support, monthly education sessions, no home visits or duty doctor days. The re-defined GP day reflected the salary that was on offer. Shared Network GPs would work at no more than two or three of our Practices, ensuring they have time to build up good relationships and feel part of the practice teams - yet using our Emis hub booking system they will see patients from all 11 practices. Appointments are allocated on a fair shares basis - this will be on average around 25 per week for the average sized Practice when we are fully staffed.

We have now held two drop-in recruitments sessions where we explain our alternative approach to the role, what support and education is on offer and can share our vision. So far we have successfully recruited 3 GPs who were attracted by the more defined working day, reduced stress and flexibility of working days, locations and sessions. GPs are able to book follow-up appointments and review investigation results for the patients they see, bringing the continuity that is lost from working as a locum but still able to try working in a number of different practice environments. They are also able to work a weekly session as part of our Winter Illness Centre team for a different experience. Our hope is that over time as these Shared Network GPs become well-known in our PCN they will be offered salaried jobs and partnerships in our member practices and we retain them in our area long-term.

By offering additional Shared Network GP appointments to one of our Practices they have been able to release a special interest GP to deliver a weekly outreach service at the Shrewsbury Ark centre for the homeless - one of our key PCN underserved populations. Without our Shared Network GPs this would not have been possible.

The removal of ring-fencing for the GP roles could be seen in two ways. Traditional ARRS staff (Paramedics/FCPs/Pharmacists etc) have voiced concerns that they will be replaced in favour of GPs and Nurses. However we feel that over the past 6 years in our PCN these roles have become well established and add vital capacity and specialist skills that could not be replaced by sufficient GPs within the same cost. What the removal of the ring-fencing does is give us an additional flexibility with our ARRS budget, opening up more opportunities for us to develop services this year how we choose, utilising all the available roles. We were pleased to see that the maximum reimbursable amount for GPs in the ARRS scheme has been increased from April. We hope this will make the job of recruitment slightly easier, but also reflect that the initial challenges and restrictions with the roles meant we had to look at things from an alternative perspective, resulting in us developing something new and different with a very positive outcome.

For any queries on the above please contact Caroline the PCN COO: caroline.brown19@nhs.net

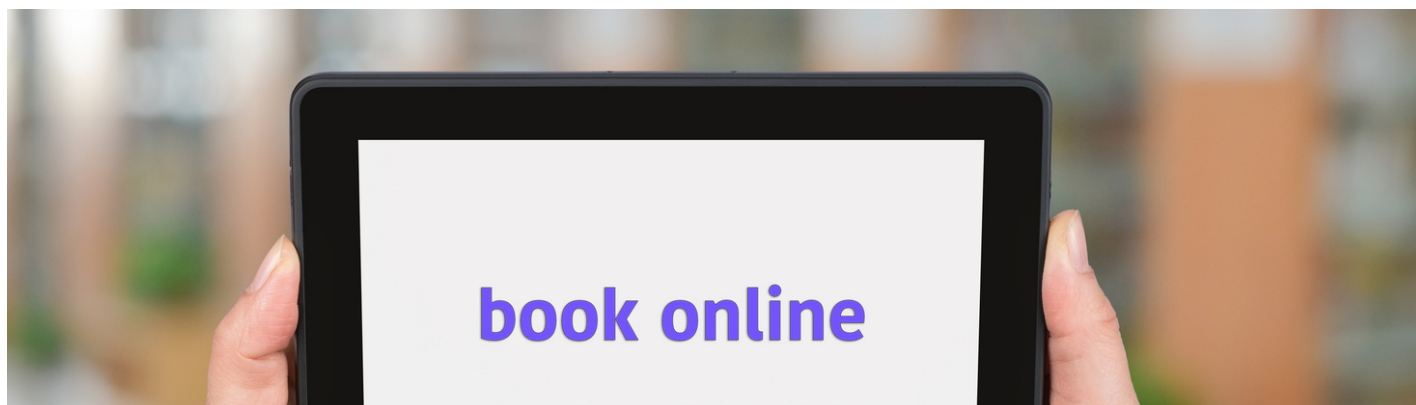
Dates for your diary:

8/5/ 25: 12.00 - 13.30: Finance planning for locums, locum insurance, alternatives to NHS Pensions
8/5/25: 18.30 - 20.00: Which NHS pension to draw and when, types of retirement.
23/05/25 11.30 - 14.00: General pension and financial advice

Atcham War Memorial Village Hall, SY5 6QE

Refreshments provided by Wesleyan.





NEW FREE GP LOCUM BOOKING PLATFORM

A new booking system is going live in STW, development of which has been funded by the ICB.

Practices will very soon be able to upload and easily amend all their available shifts on the local platform run by the Shropshire Sessional GP Network - the local locum network of currently 68 doctors. There is no cost for Practices in joining and accessing the Platform.

Once jobs are uploaded by the practices an email is sent to those on the locum list. The locum can log into their account and apply for the uploaded job. From there the practice can decline or accept a job with reasons. Payments are to be kept between practices and GPs.

Locums can join the group for free.

A flyer with a 'how to guide' will be circulated in the upcoming weeks and there will be a webinar for questions / run through for anyone that requires!

Please contact info@ssgpn.org.uk to join the locum list or create an account to use the platform as a practice!

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

