

Ian Dodge

National Director, Strategy
NHS England and NHS Improvement
Skipton House
80 London Road,
London, SE1 6LH

16th October 2020

Dear Ian

Re. Primary Care representation on ICS boards.

We are writing to urge NHS England and NHS Improvement to issue guidance to ICSs (integrated care systems) stressing the importance of primary care provider representation on their boards and other decision-making bodies.

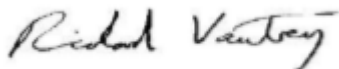
The NHS is currently going through a period of significant transformation with commissioners and providers working in partnership and primary, secondary and community care developing a more productive relationship. The response to the COVID-19 pandemic has accelerated these transformations and has demonstrated the benefits of having a strong primary care provider voice at system level.

Primary Care Networks (PCNs) have brought practices together to tackle shared challenges in providing care to local communities. Over the past few months, PCN Clinical Directors have worked closely with Local Medical Committees (LMCs) and CCGs and have provided a unified voice for primary care.

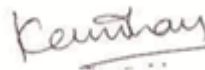
However, the BMA has received reports that in some local systems, only GPs employed from CCGs are representing primary care. Those GPs are an important voice in terms of representing commissioners, but they cannot be seen as the representative of primary care as providers. LMCs, which are the local representative voice of general practice and PCNs, should also form part of the leadership team of ICSs.

We therefore urge NHS England and NHS Improvement to signal clearly to all local systems the importance of including primary care provider representatives on their decision-making bodies to ensure that system transformation and planning are informed by clinical expertise and knowledge of the local health population.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Richard Vautrey, Chair BMA GPC



Dr Chandra Kanneganti, BMA GPC