

Avon LMC Media Statement about GP Collective Action

GP Collective Action has been taking place across the country since August 2024 and more information can be found on the [BMA](#) website. This action is not in breach of contract and represents a shift from the unsustainable goodwill that practices have been offering for many years.

The reason for action is because GPs are unable to deliver safe patient care within the current funding envelope. The impact of the recent budget has exacerbated these funding challenges.

Within the Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire area, GP Collective Action has been coordinated so that practices take the same actions for maximum impact. In summary these local actions are:

1. Moving towards safe working by creating an environment whereby clinicians have a maximum of 25 patient contacts per day. This may result in longer GP waits for routine appointments or signposting to other urgent care providers, or patient self-care.
2. Reducing bureaucracy by moving away from the use of multiple, specialist referral forms to the use of a single referral letter
3. Pushing back on work which should have been completed within an episode of care by another provider (eg: initiation of prescribing, provision of sick notes, and chasing/actioning investigations carried out by a specialist provider)
4. Serving 3-months' notice on **new** unfunded activities (not forming part of the GP contract) unless a funded, commissioned pathway is established. Specifically, the LMC has requested a separately commissioned pathway for the following unfunded areas:
 - a. Shared care prescribing for certain medications which are not currently included in the specialist medicines monitoring enhanced service
 - b. Post Bariatric surgery monitoring
 - c. Physical monitoring for AWP and CAMHS

It is important to highlight that none of the above actions constitute a breach of contract by any practice, and as such, they represent a permanent re-set as opposed to temporary action. The BMA and Avon LMC are fully supportive of practices who wish to manage their workload through completing only those tasks they are contractually obliged to fulfil.

In summary, GP practices no longer have the capacity to undertake work which has historically been carried out in the name of goodwill.