



# Suffolk LMC

## Collective Action

8<sup>th</sup> May 2026

Dear Practices,

The BMA/GPCE have announced the first stage of collective action following unsuccessful negotiations with the Government and NHSE.

Please see below communication from **Dr Caroline Delves, Norfolk and Suffolk GPCE Representative**, regarding the proposed approach:

“I wanted to give some perspective on the GP collective action. I’m aware there have been some questions about why we are starting with something seemingly obscure and low impact. The reasons are multiple, but the main ones are that this is likely to be a marathon, not a sprint, and that general practice is more contractually complex than hospital medicine.

We don’t have the same option of strikes as the resident doctors and our consultant colleagues, and are not supported by trade union law in the same way as they are. Our strength is in acting collectively, and I would encourage you all, please, to take part in this action. There is a plan for it to escalate, starting, as now with actions that are not a breach of contract (as in 2024’s collective action, which did not require breach of contract at all) and building as we go.

We know there is a wide range of opinions on whether and how much action it is right to take. Ranging from ‘nothing that will impact patient care’ through to ‘things have to change, and no one has listened when we have asked nicely and explained, the only option is to prove our value by withdrawing it’.

For those at the latter end of the spectrum, I understand that the proposed first action may be disappointing. Practices are drowning in demand now, GPs and their teams are struggling now, patient care is poor now. I get it, and I assure you that GPC England does too.

We need to act together, in an action that unites both ends of the spectrum and all of us in between the extremes. It needs to feel safe for the most risk averse practice, and strike at the heart of government strategy – i.e. neighbourhoods, population health management, IHOs, replacing the continuity of care of the family doctor (they were elected to return) with data-driven tick box online form filling. This action will also reduce the liability partners currently have as data controllers for data we are no longer fully in control of.

Please join in. Send the template letter. Protect your patients’ data as we always have, and patients trust us to do. A more in-depth guidance pack is being worked up as we speak and will be shared as soon as possible. The first step is one everyone should feel able to take. This is intentional. Please take it with us, and encourage your peers to do the same. This is the beginning of a long road. We need to travel together.”

## Actions for practices:

1. Familiarise yourself with the information available [here](#).
2. Practices wishing to participate should send the GPCE template letter to:
  - Dr John Lynch, N&S ICB Chief Clinical Information Officer: [john.lynch6@nhs.net](mailto:john.lynch6@nhs.net)
  - Paul Cook, N&S ICB Data Protection Officer (DPO): [paul.cook22@nhs.net](mailto:paul.cook22@nhs.net)
  - Emma Cooper, Kafico: [Emma.Cooper@kafico.co.uk](mailto:Emma.Cooper@kafico.co.uk)

The [template letter](#) has been approved by BMA Legal and aims to protect practices in maintaining the DSAs they require. Further information and national guidance can be found at the BMA website.

For absolute clarity, in light of anticipated ICB communications, the current GPCE/BMA action is not a request for practices to withdraw from existing operational data sharing arrangements required for direct patient care or day-to-day service delivery. At this stage, practices should not manually switch off any existing DSAs or data flows. The immediate action is limited to issuing the template letter pending further national guidance.

Some LMCs are gathering anonymised high-level information on practice engagement and any emerging concerns/themes locally.

If practices are willing to share broad figures or feedback (anonymised if preferred) with us, this may help us understand the level of local engagement and any practical issues arising. There is absolutely no expectation to do so.

Should you have any questions on this matter, please do contact us at [support@suffolklmc.co.uk](mailto:support@suffolklmc.co.uk)

Your Suffolk LMC team