



July 2018

Dear Colleagues

## New Clinical Chair's Welcome

We will shortly be issuing a summer 2018 ELMS newsletter to provide a summary of what's been happening in ELMS but I thought I would take this opportunity to write to you all in my role as ELMS new Clinical Chair.

It is hard to believe I have been fulfilling this role for over three months already. Upon my appointment, I was tasked with two major responsibilities. Firstly, to reorganise ELMS head office function and secondly to lead the organisation in the development of a vision and strategy to ensure sustainability for the organisation.

It has been both a challenging and exciting three months. A number of changes have been necessary at St Ives House, and the coming weeks and months will see a new, refreshed, corporate team operating at St Ives House. I am pleased to be able to announce the appointment of our new Chief Operating Officer, Michael O'Connor; many of you will know him from his years working for the CCG and recently as ELMS Business Manager. Michael brings with him many years of business and management experience and is working closely with me to develop and grow ELMS.

This year saw the implementation of the re-designed Out of Hours service to an Integrated Urgent Care service working 24/7 365 days per year in line with the Commissioners requirement – this has included the closure of the satellite sites with an increased emphasis on clinical triage and new ways of working with our clinicians. The feedback to date has been very positive and with your co-operation the ELMS operations team have been successful in implementing the required changes agreed by ELMS board and Council. We have also seen the closure of the Accrington Victoria Health Access Centre walk-in service after almost 9 years of delivering an effective and safe service that met patient needs and eased pressure on local routine and unscheduled care.

The NHS is undergoing yet another period of change and the current transformation sees us in the middle of changes, which are taking place across the country in response to national guidance and in response to the significant financial challenge facing the NHS. ELMS are working with local partners to ensure a robust offer for the residents of Pennine Lancashire is developed with primary care at its heart. Recent months saw ELMS enter into an Alliance with all the other primary care provider organisations across Pennine Lancashire and ELMS is now working with East Lancashire Union of GPs (EU), Local Primary Care (LPC), Pendle Care Direct and Ribblesdale to develop and deliver a joint vision for primary care.

You will hear more from me on developments as they take shape, but in the meantime if there is anything you would like to discuss then do get in touch - [asif.garda@nhs.net](mailto:asif.garda@nhs.net).

Regards

**Asif Garda**