MINI BULLETIN – 21 February 2023

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| **Physician associates** could be regulated by the GMC and handed prescribing powers under Government plans to 'free up GPs'. |

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**Junior Doctors are set for a 72-hour walkout** in March after 98% backed strike action in a BMA ballot.

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| This [guidance](https://emea01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fpcc-cic.us5.list-manage.com%2Ftrack%2Fclick%3Fu%3Dfe51aa41404cfb64f7d454491%26id%3Dc05d84aa81%26e%3D9be2819f9a&data=05%7C01%7C%7C1d28e15cacbf41c95be408db13ff79b6%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638125760193757646%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=rm%2BZyfgwpjl0ZMZ%2F2j0b4Xypk27%2BlY%2FaCK4s%2BtxXocc%3D&reserved=0) is for Integrated Care Boards (ICBs) to help them produce Annual Reports that reflect their work with people and communities and **show how they meet their public involvement legal duties.** It can also be used by other health and care organisations as good practice in making their corporate reports accessible and relevant to people and communities.**What the law says**NHS commissioning organisations have a legal duty under the NHS Act 2006 to ‘make arrangements’ to secure that individuals to whom services are being or may be provided and their carers/representatives are involved when commissioning services for NHS patients. For ICBs, this duty is outlined in section 14Z45 of the NHS Act 2006 (and for NHS England the duty is outlined in section 13Q).To fulfil the public involvement duty, the arrangements must provide for the public to be involved in:* The planning of services
* The development and consideration of proposals for changes which, if implemented, would have an impact on the manner or range of services, and
* Decisions which, when implemented, would have such an impact.

More information about the specific legal duties in relation to working in partnership with people and communities can be found in [Annex B of Working in partnership with people and communities: Statutory guidance](https://emea01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.england.nhs.uk%2Flong-read%2Fworking-in-partnership-with-people-and-communities-statutory-guidance%2F%23b1-public-involvement-legal-duties&data=05%7C01%7C%7C1d28e15cacbf41c95be408db13ff79b6%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638125760193757646%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=2sgu8z3BEma0PCtmXY9XNQMSp9vSfWViprwqKH77A34%3D&reserved=0).Additionally, Section 14Z58 of the Act stipulates that each ICB must produce an Annual Report and that this Annual Report must “explain how the integrated care board has discharged its duties under sections 14Z34 to 14Z45 and 14Z49.” ICBs must, therefore, report on how they have discharged their duty to work in partnership with people and communities each financial year. Each ICB must provide a copy of its annual report to NHS England and make a copy of the report publicly available. They must also consult with their local Health and Wellbeing Board(s) in preparing their Annual Report.[https://www.england.nhs.uk/long-read/icb-annual-reports-and-working-with-people-and-communities-guidance/#what-the-law-says](https://emea01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.england.nhs.uk%2Flong-read%2Ficb-annual-reports-and-working-with-people-and-communities-guidance%2F%23what-the-law-says&data=05%7C01%7C%7C1d28e15cacbf41c95be408db13ff79b6%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638125760193757646%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=NJR5%2FzOwM2z3QnxX%2FeiVWXM1rPYczuFuYoxVSCznMQs%3D&reserved=0) |

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