

**CHESHIRE**

**LMC**

**LOCAL MEDICAL COMMITTEE LIMITED**

Representing and Supporting GPs





LOCAL MEDICAL COMMITTEE LIMITED

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Local representation and support  
for all Cheshire GPs

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**Cheshire Local Medical Committee Limited**  
**A Guide to Your LMC**  
**William Greenwood CEO and Company Secretary,**  
**Cheshire LMC**

## Cheshire LMC

### What are LMCs?

- Structures recognised since 1948 by successive NHS Acts, Local Medical Committees (LMCs) with statutory functions to represent the interests of general practice alone and act as its advocate.
- LMCs have been in existence since 1911.
- They are the professionally led (i.e. GP) organisations with responsibility for representing individual GPs and their practices locally, regionally and nationally.
- They are not Trade Unions.
- The 1999 NHS Act extended the role of LMCs to include representation of all GPs, whatever their contractual status.
- LMCs are self financing, independent bodies. Funding is usually via a statutory levy collected on a pence per patient capita per annum basis.

## Cheshire LMC

### Who do we represent?

We represent:

- GP partners working in General Medical Services (GMS), Personal Medical Services (PMS) and Alternative Provider Medical Services (APMS) practices across the county of Cheshire, who pay the statutory levy.
- Sessional and locum GPs working regular sessions (equating to an average of one session a week over a twelve month period) in Cheshire GP practices (we do not seek a personal levy).
- trainee GPs throughout their training (we do not seek a personal levy).

We represent the views of the majority of GPs to Cheshire and Merseyside ICB, Cheshire 'Place(s)', Local Authorities, NHS England and to any other appropriate organisations or agencies (CQC, police, ambulance, coroners office etc).

- We are unable to offer assistance to unrepresented GPs outside the above.

## Cheshire LMC

### What do we actually do? (1)

As an independent body with no political constraints, we can act as an advocate and can offer help on matters relevant to general practice. GPs are welcome to contact us for help and advice. The following list, while not exhaustive, highlights some of the areas in which we can offer advice, support, produce guidance, or negotiate on behalf of GPs.

- Disputes between GPs and other bodies, e.g. ICB, NHSE, councils, police, hospitals, ambulance service, coroners office, schools, etc.
- NHS regulations/legislation.
- Local GP contracts, terms and conditions of service and remuneration (national contract via GPC).
- Completion of medical reports/certification e.g. firearms certs/ blue badge scheme.
- Partnership and PCN disputes.
- Prescribing issues and dispensing practice queries.

## Cheshire LMC

### What do we actually do? (2)

- GP premises/estates issues.
- Occupational health issues, e.g. sick doctors.
- NHS complaints process and disciplinary procedures including support at meetings.
- Workforce planning.
- Education and training e.g. we provide several annual programmes for GPs and practice staff.
- Advice on professional regulation and professional standards – ethical, conduct and performance, including clinical governance.
- Pastoral care for GPs.

If you are in any doubt as to whether or not we can assist colleagues with a particular issue you can check with the LMC's Office or your local LMC GP representative.

## Cheshire LMC

### What do we actually do? (3)

We regard communication with our GPs as essential. We hope that through using different forms of communication we are able to help GPs to prioritise information and keep abreast of the main issues impacting on general practice. Our communications take many forms depending on the information they are designed to convey, such as:

- **Heartbeat Newsletter:** for 'hot topics' to all practices via Practice Managers and to the sessional GPs for whom we hold contact details -this includes information about the latest national guidance and local developments.
- **Emails:** Informing all GPs and Practice Managers of essential information. These communications will be brief, and may highlight further reading, or action required by the recipient.
- **Guidance:** Following the completion of negotiations on important national or local subjects LMC guidance is produced detailing the outcomes and/or actions practices should consider.

## Cheshire LMC

### What do we actually do? (4)

- Reports: These are issued when a significant event has taken place, such as the Annual LMC Conference, or major national reports, which warrant more detailed communications than those outlined above.
- LMC website: [www.cheshirelmcs.org.uk](http://www.cheshirelmcs.org.uk) - Home to all our current contract guidance, reports, template letters, and includes an archive of our LMC agendas and newsletters. It also provides links to guidance produced by other organisations.
- Meetings: When issues need broad debate we organise meetings on a countywide basis and invite speakers from relevant organisations.
- WhatsApp: We have a Cheshire GP WhatsApp group and some 'closed' peer groups which use this e.g. NextGen.
- Twitter: Currently the LMC CEO uploads news on LMC developments.
- Facebook: This is currently under review.

We are always looking to improve our communication with constituents. To this end we would welcome any comments or suggestions.

## Cheshire LMC National Negotiations

- The General Practitioners Committee (GPC) is the ‘parliament’ for GPs. It is a standing committee of the BMA, with authority to deal with matters affecting NHS GPs, whether or not they are BMA members. Every part of the country has at least one spokesperson on the GPC to present its views and debate key issues. Throughout the year papers are produced for discussion by LMCs and, from time to time, the GPC consults all GPs directly through surveys and questionnaires. We help to disseminate this information and will often encourage participation in GPC consultations, as these are conducted for the benefit of the profession.
- GPC representatives and LMC representatives meet at the UK Annual Conference of LMCs. Proposals from individual LMCs across the country are debated alongside those from the GPC. The outcome of the debate determines the framework for the profession’s negotiations at both national and local levels.
- Cheshire LMC invites practices to submit motions for debate at the Annual Conferences for both UK and England and shares with all practices the results of motions debated.

## Cheshire LMC

### How we work: Elections

- The Committee at the heart of Cheshire LMC consists of up to 18 GPs elected on a PCN basis. Elections take place every 4 years according to the constitution. Any GP contributing to the LMC's levies and on the Medical Performers List can be nominated for election.
- Our constitution allows for the election of GPs working under a variety of contractual arrangements and for the co-option of additional GPs offering expertise not represented elsewhere on the committee, such as representatives from GP trainees. This encourages open and lively discussion and allows the LMC to be representative of differing opinions.
- The committee meets approximately 6 times per year to debate hot topics, discuss the outcomes of other meetings attended by members, decide on policy, and to agree an LMC stance on pertinent issues. It also offers an opportunity for members to highlight any areas of concern they may have, and to establish how widespread a problem may be and if the LMC should take further action. Speakers are sometimes invited to attend these meetings to present ideas to the committee, which allows for the opinions of grassroots GPs to be included in any proposals.
- Any GP interested in being co-opted to a vacancy or wishing to be involved with the LMC in some capacity can register interest with the LMC Chair, Medical Director or CEO.

## Cheshire LMC Executive and Secretariat

- Cheshire LMC is established as a limited company. The Company Directors (4) also act as the LMC Executive Team together with the CEO. The Company Directors hold the positions of Chair, Vice Chair, Medical Director and Finance Director. They are appointed by resolution at a full LMC meeting. Two Associate Medical Directors and Business Operations Manager support the Executive Team.
- The Secretariat is home based and comprises of a CEO and Company Secretary and a Business Operations Manager, (both are employed 24 hours per week). Office hours are 10 am to 4 pm Monday to Thursday.
- The Executive and Secretariat attend meetings, negotiate with other organisations, respond to practice queries and produce the guidance, reports, and newsletters referred to previously. Advice is taken from the full committee to guide discussions and the results of meetings are fed back to the committee. As the Executive are practising GPs, the Secretariat are the first point of contact, ensuring that the workload is appropriately prioritised and dealt with.

## **Cheshire LMC Funding, Representation and Formal Business Agenda**

- We are funded by 78 of 79 Cheshire GP practices. This is the primary source of income for the LMC and is used to pay for our Secretariat salaries, Exec posts honoraria and member attendance at meetings etc.
- In addition, practices are asked to contribute to a national levy, which is used to finance the LMC's contribution to the General Practitioners Defence Fund (GPDF). The purpose of the GPDF is to fund the activities of the General Practitioners Committee (GPC), its negotiating team, subcommittees, the Annual Conference of LMCs, and in addition campaigns and legal actions in defence of NHS GPs.
- The LMC is made up of 24 locally elected and co-opted GPs. Electoral wards are based on the 18 PCN groupings of practices. Term of office is 4 years. 1 Practice Manager is also co-opted to the LMC.
- A formal business agenda is issued 7 days before each county LMC meeting. Items can be placed on the agenda for debate by submitting them to the CEO or Chair. The agenda is available via the LMC web site. Individual GPs are welcome to attend meetings as observers.

## Cheshire LMC Contact Details

An internal directory of current LMC elected/ co-opted members and their telephone contact details are available to members. An external directory (without phone numbers) is issued more widely on a regular basis to all practices via practice managers.

The LMC website has full contact details for the LMCs office and can be found at [www.cheshirelmcs.org.uk](http://www.cheshirelmcs.org.uk) . The website also contains details of our opening times, recent agendas, latest news and guidance.

## Cheshire LMC

### Current Directors/Executive Team/ Secretariat

- Chair: Dr David Ward
- Vice Chair: Dr Shana Tam
- Medical Director: Dr Daniel Harle
- Finance Director: Dr Giles Kent
- Associate Medical Directors who support the Executive Team: Dr Simon Powell (West Cheshire) & Dr Nichola Bishop (East Cheshire)
  
- Chief Executive & Company Secretary: Mr William Greenwood  
[WGreenwood@cheshirelmc.org.uk](mailto:WGreenwood@cheshirelmc.org.uk)
- Business & Operations Manager: Mrs Julie Hughes [Jhughes@cheshirelmc.org.uk](mailto:Jhughes@cheshirelmc.org.uk)
  
- Office Telephone: 01244 313483