

FAQs about the LMC elections

Being an LMC Member

What is a Local Medical Committee?

A Local Medical Committee (LMC) is the representative professional organisation elected by GPs to represent all NHS GPs and practice teams on issues of local interest to general practice. The LMC is an independent self-financing body with statutory functions and is constituted under the NHS Act. It is not a trade union.

Each LMC is the professional, local voice for all NHS GPs and their practices, whatever type of practice you work in, and whether you are a GP on a GMS, PMS or APMS contract as a partner, a sessional GP, a GP Trainee, or as someone working on a Retainer or Flexible scheme.

An LMC consists of elected members who are GPs, co-opted members who are GPs representing a particular class of experience not otherwise represented on the committee, and observers (who do not have voting rights) and often includes a Practice Manager and a Practice Nurse representative for that LMC area.

“Only LMCs represent every GP practice in their area and every person working within each one. And being part of the Londonwide LMCs’ family gives your LMC greater influence as they feed-in to our pan-London leadership role, in turn Londonwide LMCs supports individual LMCs with advice, guidance, intelligence and development opportunities.”

Dr Rehana Aslam, sessional GP and Newham LMC member.

How are LMCs different to Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs), Integrated Care Systems (ICSs) Primary Care Networks, Federations and the British Medical Association (BMA)?

LMCs are unique statutory bodies with the right and duty to support, represent and negotiate on behalf of GPs at borough level. Essentially LMCs support GPs in their roles as providers of medical services.

CCGs are currently the commissioning bodies, which mean they are involved in the purchasing, designing and monitoring of patient care. They are membership organisations, but CCGs are answerable to the government in the same way as GPs.

From 1 April 2022 ICSs will replace CCGs. ICSs are new partnerships between the organisations that meet health and care needs across an area, and will coordinate services and plan in a way that improves population health and reduces inequalities between different groups.

Primary Care Networks are groups of practices working together, typically covering 30,000-50,000 patients. The **networks** provide the structure and funding for services to be developed locally.

Federations are groups of practices working together in the local area to provide services. They can have different ownership, governance, and management structures to suit local aims and requirements.

LMCs are not trade unions. It is the BMA which is the trade union for doctors and it negotiates on matters at a national level.

It is possible to be a member of the LMC, CCG, Federation, PCN and the BMA at the same time.

What is the connection between my local LMC and Londonwide LMCs?

The Local Medical Committee is an elected body established through statute which represents the interests of all local NHS GPs and their teams. Londonwide LMCs is the overarching organisation that represents 27 borough LMCs across the capital. Londonwide LMCs is the professional voice for over 7000 GPs and their practice teams.

Londonwide LMCs has close links on national issues with the BMA's national negotiating body, the General Practitioners Committee (GPC), ensuring the voice of general practice across London is heard and respected. Further information about Londonwide LMCs and your local LMC can be found on our website www.lmc.org.uk.

“This is a challenging and important time for general practice, and we need the strongest possible voice from the grassroots, as practices continue to manage their response to the Coronavirus pandemic, and prepare for the significant health needs which will follow it.”

Dr Neeta Ghosh-Chowdhury, GP Principal and Brent LMC member.

What are LMC members expected to do?

As an LMC member you would be expected to:

- **Provide leadership of the profession locally**
Keep up to date with professional and political issues affecting local practices via direct contact with practices, newsletters, briefings, emails, guidance and, social media. You may lead, participate or support the LMC in designing and creating activities that the Local Medical Committee host for local practices – this may include meetings that are borough wide or, as localities or indeed practice visits. Local ways of working and engagement with GPs and their practices will be determined by local issues and local needs.
- **Represent the views of the GPs and practices teams who elect you** – LMC members are expected to listen to and seek the views of the GPs and practice teams in their LMC area and bring them to the attention of the LMC and use these views to shape what happens locally in discussions and negotiations with local bodies e.g. CCG, ICS, place based committees, local authority and training hubs– see below.
- **Lead on an identified area of work** – LMC members may be asked, or wish to lead on an area of work or be involved in working groups, which they have a special

interest or expertise in. This could involve commenting on or developing specific papers, attending meetings with any relevant parties on behalf of the LMC, and providing a report back to the LMC. As the ICSs are developed there could also be opportunities for LMC members to become involved in an area of their interest representing the views of the LMCs within the ICS area.

- **Engage and provide feedback on specific issues-** LMC members will be sent emails via the LMC list server from the Londonwide LMCs' office outside of meetings seeking their views and/or comments upon particular issues methods and means of feedback may be requested in a number of ways according to the subject matter, priority or media importance.

Further details on the roles and responsibilities of being an LMC member can be found in the document 'Roles and Responsibilities for LMC Members' which is available as a separate download on the dedicated election website.

The agenda and papers for LMC hosted meetings are sent electronically to members a week before the meeting. Members are expected to have read the papers before the meeting as set out in the 'Roles and Responsibilities for LMC Members' document.

LMC members, in addition to working with local professionals and their practices, may work on specific issues that affect practices determined by the LMC such as:

- working with the Training Hubs to develop more training opportunities so that there can be increased workforce capacity in the future.
- working with PCN Clinical Directors, practices and commissioners to ensure that any new initiatives for practices do not increase GP workload without appropriate remuneration
- working specifically with acute trusts to ensure that service shifts from secondary care to primary care are supported by appropriate remuneration as well as clear processes, in order to facilitate a safe and smooth transition.

"I would recommend that sessional GPs in particular stand for election to their LMC. Being an LMC member is useful for engaging with local GPs and organisations, whilst making sure that the sessional voice is represented. Being a member of my LMC has helped in my personal development, particularly my leadership skills and understanding of the healthcare system around general practices, including primary care networks."

Dr Priya Senthilkumar, salaried GP and Sutton LMC member.

What time commitment will I need to give?

The time commitment to your LMC will depend on your role within your committee and the level of involvement you wish and are able to give. Generally, speaking the chairs and vice chairs will have greater demands on their time but due to everyone's increasing workload and varying availability, LMCs are fast moving to find a more equitable sharing of work requiring LMC representation. This way, more areas get covered but there is less pressure on fewer members and greater engagement of the full committee.

If you have a special interest, and/or skills or a desire to get involved in a particular issue, this can be of great value to the committee and members are encouraged to put their

interests to good use, by leading or supporting specific work areas. Each member is asked to generally declare any areas of interest or skills to help create member profiles for the committee making it easier when an issue arises to determine who might be the best placed person to represent the LMC.

The time commitment will be made up of representing GP interests locally as well as some more formal LMC meetings. Traditionally LMC meetings would take place 4-6 times a year on a specified day of the week (please see the grid below for your relevant LMC, but please note this is subject to change). During the Covid pandemic the meetings have been held virtually and the meeting frequency has changed and this is under ongoing review. Depending on the needs of the committee and your available time, some of our most active members would provide 2-3 hours per week to support LMC activities. However you could make a valid contribution with fewer hours and this need not only be through meetings, but actively contributing on the LMC email list or using different ways of working. The main priority is that LMC members are knowledgeable about issues facing general practice and are making active and valuable contributions.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
LMC		Barnet Camden Enfield Hillingdon Hounslow Kensington, Chelsea & Westminster Lambeth Southwark Tower Hamlets Waltham Forest	Bromley City & Hackney Ealing, Hounslow, Hammersmith & Fulham Ealing Harrow Lewisham Redbridge	Bexley Brent Islington Merton Newham Sutton	Greenwich Haringey Wandsworth

Will I be remunerated for LMC work/activities?

Yes, the board of directors agrees an honorarium for meeting attendance, paid at a notional hourly rate. As of April 2021 this rate is £104 per hour, however different day rates apply for events such as training and conferences. Committee chairs are paid an additional fixed rate to remunerate them for their additional duties. Full details can be found in the Londonwide LMCs Honoraria Policy which is available on request.

Honoraria can be paid for a range of LMC representative and leadership activities in addition to attending committee meetings including:

- Leading Local General Practice representative activity
- Representing the LMC in a range of NHS/health forums
- Agreed detailed preparation or document production
- External meeting attendance
- Engagement with local practices and profiling the work of the LMC.

Will I receive training and/or additional information once elected?

Yes, new LMC members are invited to an induction meeting at the beginning of their term. Identified and appropriate ongoing development and training is offered to LMC members throughout their term on the committee.

Do I need to have previous leadership experience?

The most important attribute of an LMC member is working knowledge of the constituency LMC area, so that you are truly representative of the issues facing grassroots GPs. Everything else can be taught, and you will be supported through an induction programme and ongoing training and development as required. All LMC constituents are kept regularly informed of NHS organisational and policy changes via LMC newsletters.

“Whether you are an experienced LMC member who knows the system inside out, returning to work from maternity leave or a career break, recently qualified, or a long qualified GP with no previous experience in a medical leadership role, your expertise is welcome and we encourage you to stand. Your perspective and ideas are valuable to your LMC. If you are a new LMC member, you will be supported by colleagues to develop your knowledge of the wider healthcare landscape and step into new responsibilities as you become ready for them.”

Dr Adam Jenkins, GP Principal, Chair of Londonwide LMCs’ Board of Directors and Chair of Ealing, Hammersmith and Hounslow LMC.

Standing for election

Who is eligible to stand for election to an LMC?

To be eligible to stand for your LMC, you need to be a GP working sessions in the relevant LMC area in which you wish to stand. You also need to be registered on the Medical Performers list by the start of the election process. We encourage GPs of all contractual status to stand including partners and sessional GPs.

I am GP Trainee, can I stand for election?

Yes, if you are registered on the National Medical Performers list and work at a practice in the LMC area. LMCs also often co-opt a representative from the local Vocational Training Scheme (VTS) on to the LMC to ensure that the trainee viewpoint is represented if there is not an elected GP Trainee member of the committee. Further information is contained in our separate ‘Trainee Guide to LMCs’.

I work in more than one constituency area, where am I eligible to stand?

A GP working in more than one constituency should stand in the constituency area where they do the majority of their work. If you work equal amounts of time in two areas, you can choose which constituency area you wish to stand in.

How do I stand for election?

If you would like to stand for election please complete the online nomination form available on www.cesvotes.com/londonwidelmcs, providing the names and email addresses of two supporting GPs in your constituency. You also have the opportunity to include a photo of yourself which will be included with your election statement. Nomination forms must be submitted by 5pm on Friday 28 May by 5pm.

Who do I need to get to support me on my nomination form?

You need to be supported by two GPs working in your LMC constituency area. The supporter's name, email address and practice contact details must be given in the supporters' section of the nomination form. These details may be verified by Londonwide LMCs to confirm you have their consent.

I would like to submit a photo, what do I need to know?

Please view the short video on the nomination webpage on best practice for photos. The uploaded photo should be a TIFF or JPEG file. The photo will be set next to your statement in portrait aspect, incorporating your head and shoulders and will be produced in black and white.

Voting

Who can vote in the elections?

Any GP working in the constituency area can vote in their LMC election.

What do I do if the constituency in which I work has changed?

Please contact lmc-elections@lmc.org.uk.

How do I vote in the elections?

When you receive your ballot letter, it will have a web address and two security codes printed on it. If you access the website and enter the two security codes, you can vote online.

What voting system is used?

The single transferable voting (STV) system is used. This is an electoral system that produces proportional representation while at the same time giving voters more choice and a clear link with their representatives. Each voter has a single vote but they can list, in order of preference, those candidates they would like to support.

What does a transferable vote mean?

If the candidate who is your first choice receives more votes than they need to be elected, the surplus votes will be transferred to your second choice. If, in turn, that candidate has more votes than are needed, then the surplus is again transferred to the next preferences as indicated by the voters. However, if the candidate who is your first choice has so few votes that they do not have enough support to be elected, your vote will be transferred to your second choice. Similarly, if that candidate does not have enough support, your vote will be transferred to your third choice and so on.

Can I vote via the telephone or by post?

This election will be held online only; you cannot vote by telephone or post.

What do I do if I don't receive a communication with the ballot details?

A communication will be sent out by the date issued in the Notice of Election if an LMC area goes to ballot. If you do not receive an email or letter with details of the ballot, please contact Civica Election Services on 020 8889 9203.

What do I do if I lose my email or letter with the ballot codes?

If you lose your email or letter with codes on it to vote, then please contact Civica Election Services on 020 8889 9203.

Results

How will I know if I have been elected or not?

By the publication date in the Notice of Election, you will be informed by letter stating whether you have been elected or not and the names of the elected candidates will be provided.

Who do I contact if I have a query on the ballot process and results?

If you have a query regarding the ballot process or results, please send it to the Returning Officer, Dr Michelle Drage to lmc-elections@lmc.org.uk.

General Queries

Who do I contact at the Londonwide LMCs' office if I have any queries about the elections?

You can send an email query to lmc-elections@lmc.org.uk.

To find out more about Londonwide LMCs log on to www.lmc.org.uk where you can read all our latest news, committee information, guidance and much more. You can also follow us on twitter [@Londonwide LMCs](https://twitter.com/Londonwide_LMCs).