

# WE NEED YOU!

**Kent LMC  
Elections  
EARLY  
JAN  
2020**



As a GP are you keen and able to contribute to and influence events in your local area?

**NOW is the time to become an LMC representative.**

Phone the office on 01622 851197 or email [info@kentlmc.org](mailto:info@kentlmc.org) for an informal discussion or further information

# What is a Local Medical Committee?

The LMC is the only body that has a statutory duty to represent GPs at a local level. This statutory duty was first enshrined in Law in 1911 and has been included in the various NHS Acts and is included in the 2012 Health and Social Care Act. The LMC has a constitution that ensures it is representative of GPs, this is updated regularly following consultation with GPs. In every area of the country there is a local representative committee called a Local Medical Committee whereby, GPs are nominated by their peers and elections to these roles take place regularly (in Kent every 3 years). The committee also ensures there is a balance in terms of representation (75% contract holders and 25% sessional (salaried/locum) GPs).

Whilst recognised by statute and having statutory functions, unlike CCGs, LMCs are NOT themselves statutory bodies, they are independent. It is this unique status as independent representative bodies recognised by statute that allows them to be so effective in standing up for and supporting their GPs. They are accountable to the GPs they represent, unlike CCGs who are answerable to NHS England and the Department of Health leaving LMCs free to speak up on behalf of GPs, practices and their patients when others cannot.

The Health and Social Care Act reinforces the requirement for NHS Bodies to consult with the LMC on issues that relate to general practice. It is important to understand that the LMC is not a trade union and cannot act as such, this is the role of the British Medical Association (BMA). The LMC therefore considers itself the voice of general practice at a local level. Kent LMC works for and supports individual GPs and practices and are also the wider professional voice of general practice.

## The LMC in the wider context

Kent LMC represents local GPs views nationally through representation on and to the General Practitioners Committee (GPC) and by submitting proposals to the England and UK Conferences of LMCs.

GPC membership consists of 51 GPs elected from regional seats and the Annual Conference of England LMCs. The GPC is responsible for advising the Secretary of State, the Department for Health and NHS Employers with whom it negotiates, GPs terms and conditions. It is guided by policy decisions determined at the Annual Conference of LMCs England.

The Annual LMC Conferences are the main policy-making event where representatives from LMCs nationally attend to debate motions that reflect local GP concerns and objectives. The LMC Conference is the body to which the GPC is directly accountable. In Kent we are currently represented on the GPC by Drs Gaurav Gupta and Sarah Westerbeek.

## How are we Funded?

The LMC is funded from Statutory & National Levies. We raise levies to cover the expenses of the office function as below:

### ***The Statutory Levy***

This sum, collected from all practices based on a number of pence per patient, and is reviewed annually. This ensures LMC independence from any other NHS body and enables us to represent and work neutrally on behalf of our GP constituents. This funding is used exclusively for the running of the local LMC office and its functioning.

## The Voluntary Levy

A separate levy, called the Voluntary Levy, is collected to contribute Kent's share of the cost of the operation of the national negotiating committee and the GP Defence Fund. The rate is set by the GP Defence Fund, based on an amount per patient and reviewed annually. Access to services funded from this levy will be made available to those who contribute. In Kent this levy has an additional price per patient for the delivery of GP staff training and the Employment Law helpline.

## The 6 main functions of the LMC

Body Recognised by Statute	Has rights and responsibilities defined in the NHS Acts & Regulations and serves as the local representative committee for all NHS GPs
An Independent Body	Represents the interests of general practice solely and acts as its advocate, remains independent from political constraints and the need to satisfy other interests
A Professional Body	Promotes quality and maintains standards of professional practice through support and demonstration in collaboration with other professional and educational bodies
A Representative Body	Listens, debates and responds to feedback and represents the majority view of its GPs to NHS England, CCGs and other national and local organisations
A Democratic Body	Elected by and consisting of local GPs who represent their local and diverse interests
A Resource	Provides advice and support to all GPs in all matters relating to their professional lives and actions.

## Supporting Individual GPs and Practices



# LMC **links** with other bodies

- ✓ Integrated Care Provider (ICP) and Integrated Care System (ICS)
- ✓ Clinical Commissioning Groups
- ✓ NHS England
- ✓ Public Health England
- ✓ Social Services
- ✓ Patient representative bodies
- ✓ Local Authorities
- ✓ The national press
- ✓ Other LMCs
- ✓ BMA General Practitioners Committee (GPC)
- ✓ Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP)
- ✓ National Association of Primary Care
- ✓ NHS Alliance
- ✓ Members of Parliament
- ✓ Dispensing Doctors Association
- ✓ Local Pharmaceutical/Dental/Optical Committees
- ✓ Hospital & Community Trusts
- ✓ CQC
- ✓ STP
- ✓ Others

## Why should you become a **Kent LMC Representative?**

LMCs represent **all** GPs, both sessional and contract holders. Any issues that you or your peers are facing locally, such as issues with contracts, can be raised through the LMC and can be taken forward on your behalf. Also, if you are experiencing difficulties that affect GPs at a national level these can be fed up through the LMC to the GPC to take forward. Recent examples include PCSE issues, pensions annualisation, NHS Property Services, indemnity cover and model locum terms and conditions.

In terms of commitment, if you join Kent LMC there will be five full LMC meetings per year and quarterly Local Constituency Committee meetings. Remuneration for these are currently offered at a rate of £335 per meeting (£210 for short meetings of up to two hours). It's not a major time commitment but, as with everything, the more energy you put into it the more you get out of it.

Being part of Kent LMC can be an interesting way to get to know about and become involved in tackling local issues affecting GPs. If you have a passion for contributing to and influencing local issues and policies then joining Kent Local Medical Committee is the perfect way of doing that.

The current term of office of the members of the Kent Local Medical Committee expires on 31st March 2020, and the Election process for members to the new Committee for the term of office from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020 – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023 will start in early January. We will be seeking 30 Contract Holding GP Representatives and 10 Sessional GP Representatives. Further information on the election process is available on our website: [www.kentlmc.org](http://www.kentlmc.org).