

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 in the LMC area. 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 aligned to a borough and 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.

“LMCs are the only independent voice of grassroots general practice, and as a member you will represent every role working in London’s GP practices and every type and size of practice. LMC membership offers great development opportunities, new members are supported to improve their understanding of how different contracts work, how general practice fits into the wider NHS landscape and much more. We welcome GPs from all roles and at any point in their career - having a diversity of different experience on LMCs is one of their great strengths.”

Dr Sid Datta, GP partner, Chair of Ealing LMC and Chair of Londonwide LMCs’ Board

How are LMCs different to Integrated Care Boards (ICBs), Primary Care Networks, Federations and the British Medical Association (BMA)?

LMCs are unique in statute 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.

ICBs are the commissioning bodies, which means they are given an allocation of money for purchasing, designing and monitoring patient care that sits alongside the core GP Contract and nationally designed direct enhanced services (DES).

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 models of ownership, governance, and management structures and can vary in the services they provide 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, ICB, Federation, PCN and the BMA at the same time. However, in some areas the ICB conflict of interests policy states that any GP with a role on the ICB cannot be a member of the LMC. If you have any questions as to whether roles you currently hold or are planning to hold may be a conflict of interest, please contact us to discuss on lmc-elections@lmc.org.uk.

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.

"I became interested in my LMC during the pandemic, a lot was changing in how we worked as a primary care team and I wanted to speak up against media negativity towards us. Now as an LMC member I'm really connected to our local systems, having conversations about how to make our working lives easier as GPs and supporting my profession. I work with a lot of colleagues who are also First5 GPs, I know that LMCs offer advice, guidance documents and the access to a GP support team that can all help recently qualified GPs."

Dr Natalie Rout, salaried GP and Vice-Chair of Camden LMC

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. 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. There may 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**

Outside of meetings LMC members will be sent emails via the LMC list server from the Londonwide LMCs' office seeking their views and/or comments upon particular issues. For example, a locally commissioned service, an ICB change in service provision such as mental health services, or local media interest such as a practice closure. The 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 resourcing.
- 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 highly recommend that sessional GPs stand for election to their LMC. Being an LMC member allows you to engage with local GPs and organisations, and ensure 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 the new commissioning structures being rolled out."

Dr Naureen Bhatti, salaried GP, Tower Hamlets LMC member and Londonwide LMCs' board 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. In general, the chairs and vice chairs will have greater demands on their time but due to everyone's increasing workload and varying availability, LMCs are flexible in finding a suitably equitable way of sharing 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. Generally LMC meetings 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). Meetings are generally held virtually. 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 Ealing, Hounslow, Hammersmith & Fulham (EHH) Kensington, Chelsea & Westminster Lambeth Southwark Tower Hamlets	Bromley City & Hackney Ealing Hammersmith & Fulham Harrow Lewisham	Bexley Brent Islington Merton Newham Redbridge Sutton Waltham Forest	Greenwich Haringey Wandsworth

Please see [appendix A](#) for further details on the frequency and method of each LMC meeting.

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 2022 this rate is £106 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.

“Being a member of the LMC has been fascinating for me because I get to understand how the healthcare system works, how primary care is funded and be involved in decision making. As an LMC rep part of my role involves trying to boundary work that is being transferred from other services and ensure practices are receiving adequate resources, much of which happens behind the scenes. I joined my LMC as a GP trainee because I’ve always had a passion for advocating for the welfare of my colleagues, which was really amplified after the junior doctors’ strikes in 2015.”

Dr Alex Lai, salaried GP and Chair of Wandsworth 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. If you are a sessional GP, you need to be working the majority of your sessions in the LMC area. 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.

Can I stand for election if I am an ICB Board member/ ICB Clinical lead/ PCN clinical lead or a Director of a Federation?

Yes, it is possible for you to stand for election if you hold one or more of the above positions. However, in some areas the ICB conflict of interest policy states that any GP with a role on the ICB cannot be a member of the LMC. If you have any queries about Conflicts of Interest in holding such a position and being an LMC member please contact lmc-elections@lmc.org.uk.

I am currently a co-opted member on the LMC – do I need to stand for election?

Yes, you need to stand for election if you wish to continue on the committee as being a co-opted GP in one committee term would not guarantee that you would be co-opted in the new committee term.

I am a 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. If you wish to stand for election but are unsure about which constituency area to stand in please contact lmc-elections@lmc.org.uk for further advice.

Can I stand for election if I have planned maternity, paternity, adoption or sabbatical leave during part of the term of office?

Yes, you can stand for election. During the period of time that you will be on leave the LMC constitution has provision to fill the temporary absence by co-opting a GP, as appropriate.

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 who work in the constituency in which you are standing. 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 26 May 2023 .

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 and registered on the Medical Performers list 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 and/or election email, 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 via: 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 visit 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 [@LondonwideLMCs](https://twitter.com/LondonwideLMCs).

Appendix A – LMC meetings frequency and method

ICB area	LMC	Day of the week meetings held (tbc)	Frequency and method
NCL	Barnet	Tuesday	Bi-monthly 4th Tuesday of month 1:00-2:30pm-virtual. Developmental Meeting-Face to Face
NCL	Camden	Tuesday	Bi-monthly 3rd Tuesday of month 3:30pm-5:00pm-Virtual. Developmental meeting Face to face
NCL	Enfield	Tuesday	Bi-monthly-2nd Tuesday of month, 1:00-2:30pm-virtual. Developmental Meeting Face to Face
NCL	Haringey	Friday	Bi-monthly -2nd Friday of month 2:00-3:30pm-Virtual. Developmental Meeting Dace to Face
NCL	Islington	Thursday	Bi-monthly -4th Thursday of month 3:30-5:00pm-Virtual. Developmental Meeting Face to Face
NWL	Brent	Thursday	Bi-monthly, virtual
NWL	Ealing, Hammersmith & Hounslow	Wednesday (Hounslow LMC Tuesday, other LMCs Wednesday)	EHH Bi-monthly, virtual. They also meet as individual LMCs ie Ealing LMC. Individual LMCs also Bi-monthly, virtual
NWL	Harrow	Wednesday	Bi-monthly, virtual
NWL	Hillingdon	Tuesday	Bi-monthly, virtual
NWL	Kensington, Chelsea & Westminster	Tuesday	Bi-monthly, virtual
NEL	City & Hackney	Wednesday	Bi-monthly, even, First Wednesday, 1.00 to 4.00pm, virtual
NEL	Newham	Thursday	Bi-monthly, even, Second Thursday, 1:30 pm to 4:30 pm, virtual
NEL	Redbridge	Thursday	Bi-monthly, odd, Third Thursday, 1:30 pm to 4:30 pm, virtual
NEL	Tower Hamlets	Tuesday	Bi-monthly, odd, Second Tuesday, 1:30 pm to 4:30 pm, virtual
NEL	Waltham Forest	Thursday	Bi-monthly, odd, First Thursday, 1:30 pm to 4:30 pm, virtual
SEL	Bexley	Thursday	Bi-monthly, virtual
SEL	Bromley	Wednesday	Bi-monthly, virtual
SEL	Greenwich	Friday	Bi-monthly, virtual
SEL	Lambeth	Tuesday	Bi-monthly, virtual
SEL	Lewisham	Wednesday	Bi-monthly, virtual
SEL	Southwark	Tuesday	Bi-monthly, virtual
SWL	Merton	Thursday	Monthly; first Thursday of the month, 2-4 pm, virtual
SWL	Sutton	Thursday	Monthly, third Thursday of the month, 2-4 pm, virtual
SWL	Wandsworth	Friday	Monthly; first Friday of the month, 2-4 pm, virtual