



Nottinghamshire Local Medical Committee

Representing and supporting GPs



SUPPORT • ADVICE • REPRESENTATION

What is the Local Medical Committee (LMC)?

The LMC is an independent organisation which represents local general practitioners working within the NHS. The LMC represents all GPs within its geographical area of responsibility and has many other professional and statutory responsibilities

History

LMCs have been around since 1911 predating the National Health Service (NHS). The introduction of the National Insurance Bill in May 1911 by David Lloyd George made no provision for doctors to be involved in the administration of the bill.

As a result, the British Medical Association (BMA) encouraged its GP members to establish provisional Local Medical Committees (LMCs) as GP representative bodies. Additionally, State Sickness Insurance Committees, the forerunner of what is now the General Practitioners Committee (GPC) which orchestrated the setting up of an Insurance Act Defence Fund now the General Practice Defence Fund (GPDF) to help pay for the anticipated struggles the profession would face.



Statutory functions

The Nottinghamshire LMC comprises up to 20 elected members, representing more than 700 GPs, plus co-opted representatives of practice managers and GP registrars. The LMC comprises four constituencies based on the locality boundaries of Bassetlaw, Mid Nottinghamshire, Nottingham City and South Nottinghamshire.

The elected members are at the heart of the LMC and are responsible for making policy and directing the work of the operational team who represent and support constituents daily. They are also responsible for:

- Canvassing the views of local colleagues and representing them in our discussions
- Representing the LMC in committees and working groups and in commenting on NHS policy documents
- Assisting and advising colleagues seeking help and directing them to other Nottinghamshire LMC services where required
- Explain the Nottinghamshire LMC views and policies to constituents and raising the LMC profile among grassroots GPs



How are we funded?

Statutory Levy

All LMCs are funded by a statutory levy. This amount is collected from practices and is based on an amount per patient. This money funds the secretariat and officers of the LMC. It also funds the representative committees with representatives being paid per attendance and reimbursed travel expenses.

What do we do for you?

The LMC provides representation, advice and support for general practice locally

In addition to the operational work the LMC team does to represent and support constituents daily, they also work with – and through – the GPC. They also attend the annual UK and England LMCs conference. These conferences are normally attended by the elected members of the LMC who represent colleagues at a national level which impacts policy.

Core Services

Liaison support

Through our dedicated Liaison Team, we provide advice on:

- Any and every aspect of GPs' contracts, the prevailing NHS Regulations and the SFE
- Salaried contracts
- Patient lists
- Patients records
- Practice IT
- Superannuation
- Provision of services to patients
- Ethical responsibilities
- Medico-legal issues
- Complaints and disciplinary issues
- Partnership agreements
- Business planning
- Premises leases and service charges
- Fees and certification

For legal reasons, we do not offer advice on employment issues (other than salaried GP contracts) or clinical negligence (which are the province of the BMA and medical defence organisations (MDOs) respectively).

CQC Preparatory Visits

The LMC provides a free support service to member practices to assist in the preparation and planning for an inspection from the Care Quality Commission (CQC). Our service involves working closely with practices that have been notified of an inspection due, assisting with an unannounced inspection or are undertaking preparatory governance work.

Partnership advice and conciliation

Nottinghamshire LMC Ltd's Secretariat has considerable knowledge of partnership agreements, and in the absence of any universally accepted model partnership agreement, can offer advice on specific paragraphs and issues of contention. GP partnerships are subject to occasional stresses and strains, and like marriages, often benefit from external help to avoid painful and acrimonious break-ups. Nottinghamshire LMC Ltd offers a conciliation service, through which we facilitate discussion and clarify issues, so that if a break-up is inevitable, it can be managed with a minimum of argument or disruption.

Communications Support

Our communications team are integral to all aspects of how we support general practice locally.

Through the team we provide social media guidance and media training to help GPs to manage their social accounts and handle press queries. We also produce publications, video's and a podcast that we use to engage with constituent practices including:

- A weekly e-update
- A quarterly newsletter
- A monthly podcast
- Ad-hoc YouTube explainer videos

In addition to this we produce an annual report and posters to support GPs and their teams.

Dealing with complaints

The LMC has considerable experience in advising GPs and practices on how to respond to patient complaints and know when the assistance of other forms of support e.g. that of MDOs, are required.

We can also call upon the services of several GPs with extensive experience in advising and representing GPs faced with complaints, and, where face to face meetings with a complainant, or formal conciliation, may be required, we can nominate GPs to act as intermediaries or as independent GP advisors to lay conciliators.

What additional services can you access?

LMC Buying Group

The LMC Buying Group was created to help practices save time and money on products and services regularly used in practice. Through free membership, practices can access discounts on a range of products and services from medical consumables and stationery to confidential shredding and staff uniform.

The LMC Buying Group have done all the hard work of procuring and approving suppliers so that practices don't have to. For more information and to become a member, visit www.lmcbuyinggroups.co.uk.



Phoenix Programme

The Nottinghamshire General Practice Phoenix Programme supports local GPs through providing career advice and development opportunities at any stage of their career ranging from training to retirement. The programme offers a range of services and schemes including one-to-one career advice, signposting, mentoring, education, group support and fellowships. For more information on the Phoenix Programme, visit their website at: www.phoenixprogramme.co.uk



Green Group

In December 2021, the Notts LMC Green Group was created to promote green initiatives and sustainability within practices. We meet and share learning with colleagues from the Greener Practice East Midlands to offer quick, simple changes as well as long term changes that practices can do to become greener. Dr Kate Woolley chairs the Green Group and is supported by Dr Jennifer Moss Langfield, Dr David Wicks, Dr Lauren Taylor, Michael Wright and Emma Wiklo. Look out for our **“Tip of the Week”** in the E-Update.



Nottinghamshire
Local Medical Committee
Green choices today, a healthier practice tomorrow

GP-S

The GP-S service offers access to free peer mentoring and coaching for all GPs and GP ST3s in Nottinghamshire alongside training and wellbeing workshops for all Primary Care staff and beyond. GP-S has been used by around 1 in 10 of all Nottinghamshire GPs and feedback has shown the service has improved personal and professional lives. To find out more about what GP-S offers and how to access their service, please visit their website at www.gp-s.org.



Personal Advice Support Service (PASS)

Our PASS service formally known as Pastoral Network, is made up of several experienced GP advisors, available and trained to provide personal and confidential support to local GPs undergoing any kind of personal difficulty or crisis. There is no limit on how long this support can be accessed, and our advisors can offer preventative support to help the smaller issues as well as reactive support.



PASS
PERSONAL ADVICE AND
SUPPORT SERVICE

Trauma Risk Management (TRiM)

TRiM is a free reactive peer support service we offer to general practice staff within Nottinghamshire exposed to psychologically traumatic events. Through peer delivered risk assessment, TRiM will deploy fully trained practitioners within 3-5 days of the traumatic event to provide support to individuals or teams. They will support colleagues in managing their normal reactions to potentially distressing or traumatic situations and prevent the development of further difficulties.

For more information about all our additional services, visit our website at www.nottinghamshirelmc.co.uk.



How can you contact us?

We are always here to support you. If you want to get in touch with a member of the team, you can complete a simple contact form on our website at www.nottinghamshirelmc.co.uk.

Alternatively, you can get in touch with us by phone on **0115 977 1341** or email us at office@nottslmc.co.uk.

If you wish to meet with a member of the team to discuss any issue you feel we can support you with, please email us and we will set a date to meet at our office.

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