Leeds Local Medical Committee Limited

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Leeds Local Medical Committee Medical Secretaries Report December 2025

The Leeds Local Medical Committee (LMC) continues to represent, support and advocate for general practice in Leeds. We work constructively with system partners to safeguard safe, sustainable care for our patients and general practice teams. With our new officer/director team now fully established, the Committee comprises 16 GP members alongside representation from practice managers, nurses and our West Yorkshire BMA GPC England representative.

Committee and Elections

The next round of annual elections to the committee will begin in the New Year. We will be recruiting for 7 GP representatives.

Our Focus in 2025

As in previous years, our work has focused on advocating for a safe and sustainable workload, improving the primary-secondary interface and ensuring that GPs and practices are well-equipped to navigate a rapidly changing landscape.

Mind the Gap Collective action

Leeds LMC has worked with practices to identify local commissioning gaps, cost up and negotiate areas where general practice is carrying an unresourced workload. This year we negotiated a scaled down GPOP Local enhanced scheme (LES) and costed up and negotiated a simple and post-operative wound care LES now funded by Leeds ICB. We are in ongoing negotiations with the local authority on the smoking cessation prescribing LES we costed up, as the current service was commissioned without accounting for prescribing workload and costs.

Our objective throughout has been to protect patient care, ensure work aligns with the Primary Medical Services Contract, and avoid contract breaches while pushing back on unfunded or inappropriate transfers of work.

Safe Working and Interface: Guidance for Practices

In line with the updated BMA GPC England safe working guidance, we have provided practical tools to support practices to prioritise safe, high-quality care and push back where necessary within the regulatory and professional expectations of the Primary Medical Services Contract.

Chair: Dr S McSorley, Vice Chair(s): Dr M Tasou and Dr J Newell Treasurer: Dr N Hambridge,

Medical Secretary(s): Dr G Elias and Dr L Clement,

Executive Officer: Colette Young-Breeze

Templates available on the Leeds LMC website include:

- Letters to providers explaining that as part of Mind the Gap Collective action, requests cannot be undertaken where they constitute under- or unsourced transfers of work
- Letters to the ICB to report unmet requirements by secondary care providers relating to the primary - secondary care interface and to request the ICB take rectifying action
- Letters to the ICB to give notice on the shared care agreement to a particular medication
- Letters to specialists reminding them of their responsibilities relating to shared care agreements, in initiating medication for gender dysphoria. This was a collaborative piece of work with the WY LMC's executive groups after Leeds LMC identified a commissioning gap for this service at the regional level.

The LMC have also developed guidance for practices to use when considering entering into a shared care agreement.

New **patient-facing materials** such as the "What to Expect from Your Specialist Appointment" poster have been developed collaboratively with system partners to set clear expectations about what general practice can safely and contractually deliver. Practices can access a dedicated patient-facing resources section on our website.

System Partnership and Digital Enablement

We continue to meet regularly with Leeds Integrated Care Board and Public Health and have established ongoing meetings with executives from each of the local trusts to address interface issues constructively. Progress is being made on enabling electronic prescribing (EPS) at LTHT. Following discussions between Leeds LMC and St. Gemma's Hospice, EPS functionality is now live from last month.

Shaping Neighbourhood Health and Wider Reform

Leeds LMC carried out structured interviews with General Practice representatives across all 19 PCNs in Leeds, in response to the risks identified for General Practice in NHS England's Model ICB blueprint v1.0 and the Leeds Provider Partnership Review.

Our report capturing a unified voice of Leeds General Practice on what we need to move forward safely towards neighbourhood health working and wider partnership reforms has been published and shared internally with practices.

Communication and Events

Viewpoint, our LMC Newsletter continues to deliver timely, accessible updates for practice and remains well received. Issues can also be accessed on the newsletters section of our website.

The LMC has hosted several events this year for GPs and practices:

NHS Pensions & Finance Events, supporting GPs and practice teams to navigate complex tax and pension issues.

Updates on CQC inspection processes, responding to the evolving regulatory framework.

Contract update sessions, supporting practices to navigate the implications of the 2025/26 contract and the national dispute.

The LMC has expanded its communications through the updated LMC website, WhatsApp groups, X, Facebook and regular surveys to gauge opinion from practices and GPs.

Advocacy and External Engagement

The LMC continues to actively engage with local MPs to highlight current issues affecting general practice. Recently, this engagement led to Sir Alec Shelbrooke MP writing to the Chancellor, Hon Rachel Reeves MP, to express concerns regarding the impact of increased National Insurance Contributions on GP Practices.

The LMC also wrote to the Secretary of State for Health supporting the abolishment of one-word CQC ratings, noting parallel developments in the Education Sector.

We maintain strong ties with neighbouring LMCs, collaborating to actively support and promote General Practice through regular participation in West Yorkshire LMC Executive Meetings and engage with the national LMC network.

Our local BMA representative on GPC England now attends the monthly LMC Committee meetings.

Professional Support, Mentorship and Wellbeing

The LMC continues to offer mentorship for GPs and practice managers through GPM plus. The innovative array of GPM plus programs, that have been available to Leeds constituents for over five years, focus on the well-being, resilience, and development of individuals and teams within General Practice. These programs address ongoing challenges related to burnout and workforce retention, featuring the Healthy Practice Programme, which has enabled practices to: enhance communication within teams,

understand individual and team needs, develop personalised well-being plans, and foster a sense of community and teamwork.

Early Support and Assurance Process

The LMC encourages practices and GPs to contact us at early when challenges arise. The LMC works with the ICB to recognise and support practices and GPs in difficulty at the earliest possible stage, helping resolve issues collaboratively. The LMC provides regular representation for GPs at the Professional Standards Group, and we are also now involved in the Performer's List Decision Panel dealing with GPs in difficulty for a variety of reasons. We also offer pastoral support and guidance.

Looking Ahead to 2026

Over the next year the LMC will:

- focus on strengthening relationships and communications channels with stakeholders and constituents
- navigate major changes while advocating for the time, governance and stability general practice needs
- continue to press for safe workloads, clear commissioning and effective interface arrangements

If you need support, or wish to discuss any of the areas above, please contact the LMC at the earliest stage at mail@leedslmc.org.

Dr. Gwyn Elias

Medical Secretary & Director
Leeds LMC, 12th December 2025