

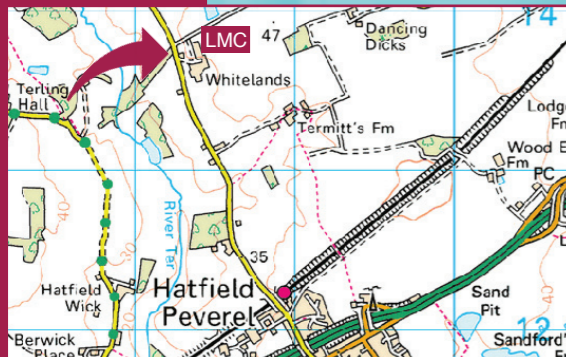
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**GP REGISTRAR**  
No Representation



LOCAL MEDICAL COMMITTEES

NORTH  
& SOUTH  
ESSEX

LOCAL  
MEDICAL  
COMMITTEES  
LIMITED

## The History of The Local Medical Committee

### Background

When the National Insurance Bill was first introduced in 1911 no provision was made for general practitioners to participate in the administration of the new state health insurance scheme. The British Medical Association was however determined that the profession should have a voice in its day-to-day running. It therefore ensured that locally elected committees of general practitioners (Local Medical Committees) were given statutory recognition in the 1911 National Insurance Act as the representative voice of the 'panel' doctors.

The 1911 Act required the Local Insurance Committee (the forerunner of the NHS Executive Council, the Family Practitioner Committee and latterly the PCTs) to consult all general practitioners participating in the health insurance scheme on a wide range of matters via the LMC. After the LMCs had been set up, a national committee was established within the BMA to represent the interests of 'panel' doctors in negotiations with government. This national committee, the Insurance Acts Committee (the forerunner of the General Practitioners Committee), was recognised by government as the authoritative voice of general practitioners.

The profession supported the introduction of a state medical scheme but was strongly opposed to a salaried service; it recognised that in 1948 the loss of the independent contractor status would undermine the freedom of doctors to practice without state interference, and ultimately put patient care at risk. This commitment to the contractor status remains a guiding principle of the GPC, but today the LMC represents GPs working in all contractual models, both salaried and self employed.

## LMC Personnel

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## LMCs Today

It is essential that the Committees are kept up to date with issues that are important and relevant to local GPs. Rapid change in the NHS in general, and in primary care in particular, makes the role of local members, in acting as a point of contact for local GPs and in gathering intelligence on local issues of concern, more important than ever.

### A few Current issues are:

- ◆ Development of GP Commissioning
- ◆ Effective representation of all GPs
- ◆ Implications for LMCs of the Government's reforms
- ◆ GP Workforce/Recruitment
- ◆ Revalidation for GPs

## LMC Representation of General Practitioners

*Promoting the interests, aspirations and welfare of general practitioners in North and South Essex.*

### Major Functions

1. Provide personal and professional support to individual GPs.
2. Represent GPs and their interests in all relevant political/managerial settings.
3. Perform the functions of an employers' association on matters relating to primary care staff.

The LMCs are funded entirely by the GPs in North and South Essex and receive no NHS or public funding. The work of the Committees increasingly involves closer collaboration with all other health organisations and it is our belief that genuine advancement for GPs will inevitably lead to benefits to patients.

Legislation enables the LMCs to be representative of all GPs – principals and sessional GPs, inclusive of those working in GMS, PMS and APMS. In representing the core values of the profession the LMCs strive to promote the values of:

- ◆ Equity and Fairness
- ◆ Openness
- ◆ Equal opportunity
- ◆ Strength in unity

The LMCs work to ensure that all help and advice provided is representative of the GPs in the area, whether they are in contract with a PCT, working in PMS, or are non-principals who wish to be represented.

## The Role of an LMC Member

*◆ Promote the LMC - make constituents, PCTs and professionals allied to medicine aware of who the representatives are and how they can be contacted. Email addresses and mobiles if necessary.*

- ◆ Keep abreast of LMC remit reflecting local intelligence and expertise.
- ◆ Be available to constituents and PCTs - be responsive to constituents' needs - provide the first line of support - provide specialist roles, eg examining sick doctors, specialist sub-committees, representation to PCT.
- ◆ Provide mentorship, moral support and appropriate guidance - i.e. initial support in partnership disputes etc, steering towards BMA Industrial Relations expertise. Members should offer clear advice but not tell constituents what to do.
- ◆ Good liaison with the LMC office. Members need to keep the officers informed of local issues.
- ◆ Contribute to LMC communications - via newsletters, web-site and emails etc.
- ◆ Provide induction/mentorship in the role of LMC representative for new members.
- ◆ Members must at all times act with discretion, preserve confidentiality where necessary, and declare any possible conflict of interest.

## Essex LMCs Ltd - Buying Group

The sole purpose of the Buying Group is to save its member practices money by negotiating discounts on goods and services which practices regularly purchase. With the help of our colleagues in the LMC Buying Groups' Federation, the LMCs negotiate with suppliers, after which 'approved' suppliers are identified, who guarantee to give you significant discounts over what you would otherwise pay for their services. All practices are automatically enrolled as members. The LMCs regard this as a valuable addition to the range of services already offered to constituent practices. Each practice is free to take up or decline any of the deals that have been negotiated. If practices wish to take advantage of any of the offers in question, they will be given contact details and all communications take place between the practice and the individual supplier.

The goods and services for which the LMCs have negotiated discounts include:

- ◆ Flu and travel vaccines
- ◆ Medical consumables, including single-use instruments
- ◆ Office stationery and furniture
- ◆ Medical equipment calibration and testing, and electrical PAT testing
- ◆ Gas, electricity and telephone discount negotiation
- ◆ Practice website design packages
- ◆ Car purchase and leasing
- ◆ Staff Uniforms
- ◆ Secure Shredding Services
- ◆ Fire and Security Equipment & Services
- ◆ Medical Insurance.

The Federation is the brainchild of colleagues in the Trent LMCs' Buying Group. Initially the membership comprised of practices in 11 LMCs across the country. This is now rapidly expanding and this collective buying power should enable the LMCs to continue to secure more deals to reduce your regular practice expenditure.