

Your Local Medical Committee . . .



. . . the local, recognised, statutory committee
representing all General Practitioners

A GUIDE TO THE LMC

Here to support YOU and your practice. . .



Representing:

Dorset, Hampshire & IOW, Bath and North East Somerset, Swindon and Wiltshire

Supporting:

Channel Islands

What is a Local Medical Committee?

LMCs vary in size and are a committee recognised by statute as the representative body for all General Practitioners and their Practices; whether GMS, PMS, principal, sessional, locum or registrar, the LMC is here for you and to represent you.

LMCs were first established in 1911 (when they were known as Local Panel Committees) and were the local representative voice of doctors. Over a hundred years later, LMCs remain the only local elected and representative body for all General Practitioners. The LMC operates as the link between local GPs and their national negotiating body, the General Practitioners Committee (GPC). The GPC is an established and permanent Committee of the British Medical Association (BMA) and is recognised as the sole negotiating body for all NHS GPs.

The GPC is guided by policy decisions determined at the LMC Annual Conference. This is the main policy-making event where representatives from LMCs nationally debate motions which reflect local GP concerns and objectives. The LMC Conference is the body to whom the GPC is directly accountable.

All LMCs are funded by a statutory levy which is collected from Practices and is based on the number of patients registered at that Practice. The amount is set by each LMC and reviewed annually. It funds the office and Officers of the LMC, as well as the individual Committees.

Your Local Medical Committee. . .

Wessex LMCs operates across the counties of Dorset, Hampshire, the Isle of Wight, Bath, North East Somerset, Wiltshire and Swindon; we also provide services to the Islands of Jersey and Guernsey. Representing in total, around 465 Practices and 3755 GPs, covering a total population in excess of 3,700,000. We exist solely to represent, advise and support GPs and their Practices.

- [Dorset](#)
- [Hampshire and the Isle of Wight](#)
- [BaNES, Swindon & Wiltshire \(BSW\)](#)

Each Committee is elected by the GP constituents it covers and is entirely independent. The three LMCs have formed a [Secretariat](#) comprising the elected Chair and Vice-Chair of each LMC. This Secretariat employs the Chief Executive of Wessex LMCs, Dr Nigel Watson MBE MBBS FRCGP, and through him a Directorate and Administrative Team run the [Chandler's Ford office](#).



Dr Nigel Watson, MBE MBBS FRCGP

The different aspects of the LMC?

The LMC has a number of defined roles and functions. These are:

A Statutory Body

. . . which has rights and responsibilities defined in the NHS Acts and Regulations. The statutory body serves as the local representative committee for all GPs.

An Independent Body

. . . which represents the interests of General Practice and acts as its advocate. The LMC remains independent from political constraints and the need to satisfy other interests.

A Professional Body

. . . that promotes quality and maintains standards of professional practice through support and educational activity in collaboration with other professional and educational bodies.

A Representative Body

. . . that listens, debates and responds to feedback. The LMC represents the views of its GPs to NHS England, CCGs and other national and local organisations.

A Democratic Body

. . . that is elected by and consists of local GPs who represent a diverse range of interests and experience.

A Resource

. . . that provides advice and support to all GPs in matters relating to their professional lives and actions.

Who is the LMC?

The Committees

Wessex LMCs has three Committees: Dorset, Hampshire and the Isle of Wight and BaNES, Swindon & Wiltshire (BSW). Each Committee is elected by the GP constituents it covers and is entirely independent. The three LMCs form a [Secretariat](#) comprising the elected Chair and Vice-Chair of each LMC Committee.

LMC Elected Members

The LMC is a democratic organisation. Members are elected for a 4 year term of office, however, we hold elections every 2 years to stagger old and new membership opportunities and all GPs in our areas are invited to stand and to vote. That said, we do also have some occasional vacancies that occur mid-term. All GPs in our areas are informed of forthcoming elections in advance and it is very easy to stand as you can self-nominate. The GPs elected by their peers then form the Committee which meets 6 times a year to discuss policy and consider matters relevant to General Practice locally.

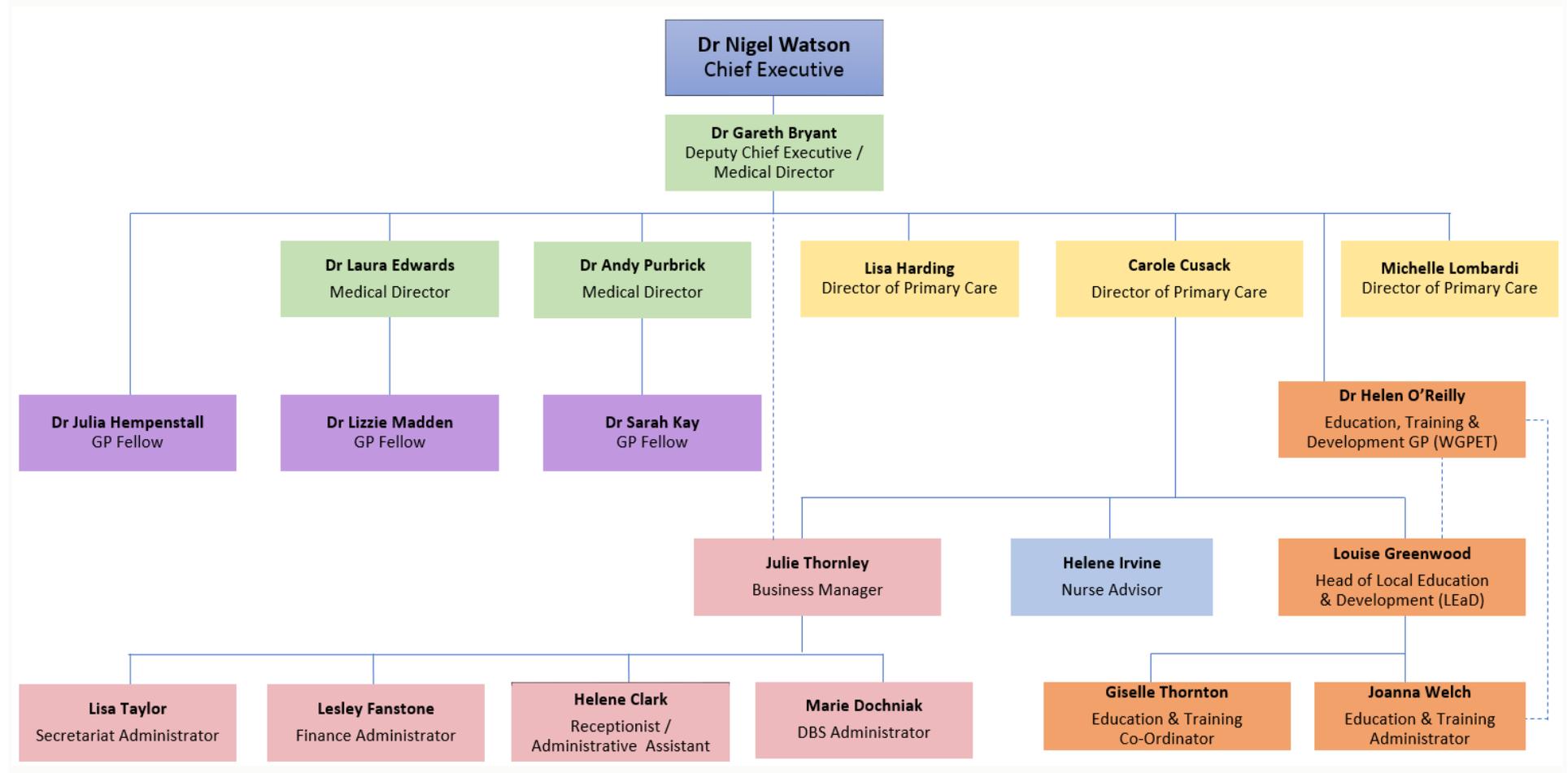
If you would like to know what goes on at an LMC Meeting, you are welcome to attend a meeting as an observer at any time. To arrange a visit, please contact the LMC Secretariat who will be happy to organise a date with you. If you are keen to contribute and influence events in your local area, please contact us at any time to discuss the possibility of LMC membership.

The LMC Staff Team

We have a team of 17 employed staff responsible for GP and practice liaison, co-ordinating meetings, planning events, training and education, maintaining relationships with other organisations and advising GPs and practices.

Meet the LMC Team...

The team comprises of the CEO, Deputy CEO/Company Secretary, 3 Medical Directors, 3 Directors of Primary Care, a Business Manager, Head of Training, Education & Development, a Nurse Advisor and an Admin Team of 6 Administrators.



How is the LMC funded?

All LMCs are funded by a statutory levy which is collected from Practices and is based on the number of patients registered at that Practice. The amount is set by each LMC and reviewed annually. It funds the office and Officers of the LMC, as well as the individual Committees.

The Statutory Levy

This is an amount collected from all practices and it is based on a number of pence per patient which is reviewed annually. This ensures the LMC's independence and allows us to represent and work objectively on behalf of our GP constituents. This funding is used exclusively to run the LMC office and provide LMC services.

The National (Voluntary) Levy

A separate levy is collected to fund some of the work of the GPC and the GP Defence Fund. The rate is set annually by the GP Defence Fund and is based on an amount per patient. Only GP Principals contribute towards the voluntary levy.

What this means for you...

In Wessex, all levies are currently deducted at source from GMS and PMS practices on an annual basis and paid direct to the LMC. This means that as a GP working as a Partner or Salaried doctor in a GMS or PMS practice, you can access the services of the LMC at any time regardless of your contractual status. Many APMS contract holders also pay the statutory levy entitling their GPs to benefit from the LMC's services. Locum GPs can access LMC services by joining as a member for a small annual fee.

What can the LMC do for you?

Being a GP in the NHS today is increasingly complex. Alongside your clinical responsibilities, you are expected to be a business person, bureaucrat, legal expert, finance manager and HR professional. The LMC is here to help and advise you on a wide range of issues including but not exhaustive of:

- contractual, employment and partnership matters
- GMS/PMS regulations and the Statement of Financial Entitlements
- premises
- patient lists and allocations
- pharmacy and dispensing matters
- personal matters
- professional standards, ethics, conduct and performance
- complaints & disputes
- premises
- appraisal and revalidation
- professional fees
- IT
- confidentiality and consent issues
- CQC inspection
- DBS Applications
- *Wessex Insight (offers a confidential professional support for practitioners who may be struggling with challenges or obstacles which are causing a negative impact on their performance in the workplace)*

The LMC has specialist knowledge and expertise in matters relevant to GPs including the various GP and Primary Care Regulations so we are always a good place to start when you are seeking information or clarification.

What support does the LMC offer. . .

We offer support by phone and email and also offer one to one appointments with one of our team.

A substantial part of our work involves. . .

- responding to queries and issues from individual GPs and practices
 - providing help and support to GPs and practices facing a difficulty
- . . . if in doubt, always contact us first and we will be able to help or guide you to the most appropriate organisation.

The Wider LMC Role. . .

NHS England is required by statute to consult LMCs on many issues and these are set out in the General Medical Services Regulations, Contractual Terms, Pharmaceutical Services Regulations and Statement of Financial Entitlements. The LMC is also consulted by NHS England, CCGs and other bodies when the views of general practice as a whole are required.

As a statutory, yet independent body, the LMC occupies a unique position of influence within the NHS.

“If you don’t know who to ask – ask the LMC”

Engagement with your LMC. . .

We encourage all GP Constituents to engage with the LMC at the level that best suits their needs and interests; we welcome your input on issues that need resolving:

Level 1 – The Basics

Take advantage of the resources we produce by reading our newsletter, using the website, emailing us the occasional enquiry and attending our events.

Level 2 – Engaged

Take a proactive stance and use the LMC to provide you with advice and support by email, phone and occasional one to one meetings. If you use social media, engage with us on Twitter and take part in our useful seminars.

Level 3 – Active

If you're interested in medico-politics, looking for a portfolio career or just keen to ensure that your voice is heard, then why not stand for election to the LMC? Being an LMC member will allow you to:

- Influence the medico-political agenda locally and nationally
- Have your opinion heard
- Influence policy
- Learn about medico-legal and medico-political issues
- Help shape the future of general practice
- Represent your GP colleagues

Contact with your LMC. . .

Our aim is to keep all of our GP constituents informed and up to date about changes, developments and initiatives. We do this in a range of ways including:

- **Regular emails** about urgent or sometimes sensitive issues.
- **Monthly newsletters** from both the CEO to GPs and a more general version from the Directors of Primary Care to Practice Managers.
- **The LMC Website** – www.wessexlmcs.com – where you'll find a huge range of resources from latest news articles to LMC advice, back issues of our newsletter and access to essential publications.
- **Twitter @wessexLMCs** and **Facebook @Wessex Local Medical Committees Ltd** – where we post breaking news and important updates.
- **Regular training, seminars and learning events** – check out our website for forthcoming events.
- **Facilitating one-off meetings** in response to pressing or contentious local issues.
- **An Annual Conference** to bring together the key issues facing General Practice and the solutions we can offer.

How to get the best from your LMC. . .

To get the best from us, make sure you:

- keep us up to date with contact information including your preferred email address
- follow us on Twitter and like our page on Facebook
- visit our website regularly
- ring or email us whenever you need information or support

Wessex LEaD . . .

Local Education & Development



- Wessex LEaD is incorporated into Wessex LMCs and has its own a rolling programme of training events being offered to all staff who work in General Practice. All courses are relevant and practical and are often led by trainers still working in Primary Care.
- Wessex LEaD aims to fill the training gap for practice staff by running courses and also by signposting staff to resources from other providers. The website is continually updated, so it is a current and valuable educational resource for Practices.
- Our recent close collaboration with Wessex GP Education Trust (WGPET) has enabled us to jointly run more courses for GPs, both clinical and non-clinical. We are developing our events so that more and more of them are attractive to the multi-disciplinary team as is reflected within current general practices.
- In addition to our face to face courses and conferences, we also offer lunchtime training resources via our Lunch and Learn series, soon to be including podcasts and webinars as part of our offer.

Contact Details. . .



Our normal office hours are: Monday to Friday, 8:30 am to 5:30 pm.

(When the office is closed, please leave a message on our voicemail and we will return your call as soon as possible.)

Phone: 02380 253874

Email: office@wessexlmcs.org.uk

Website: www.wessexlmcs.com

Twitter: @WessexLMCs

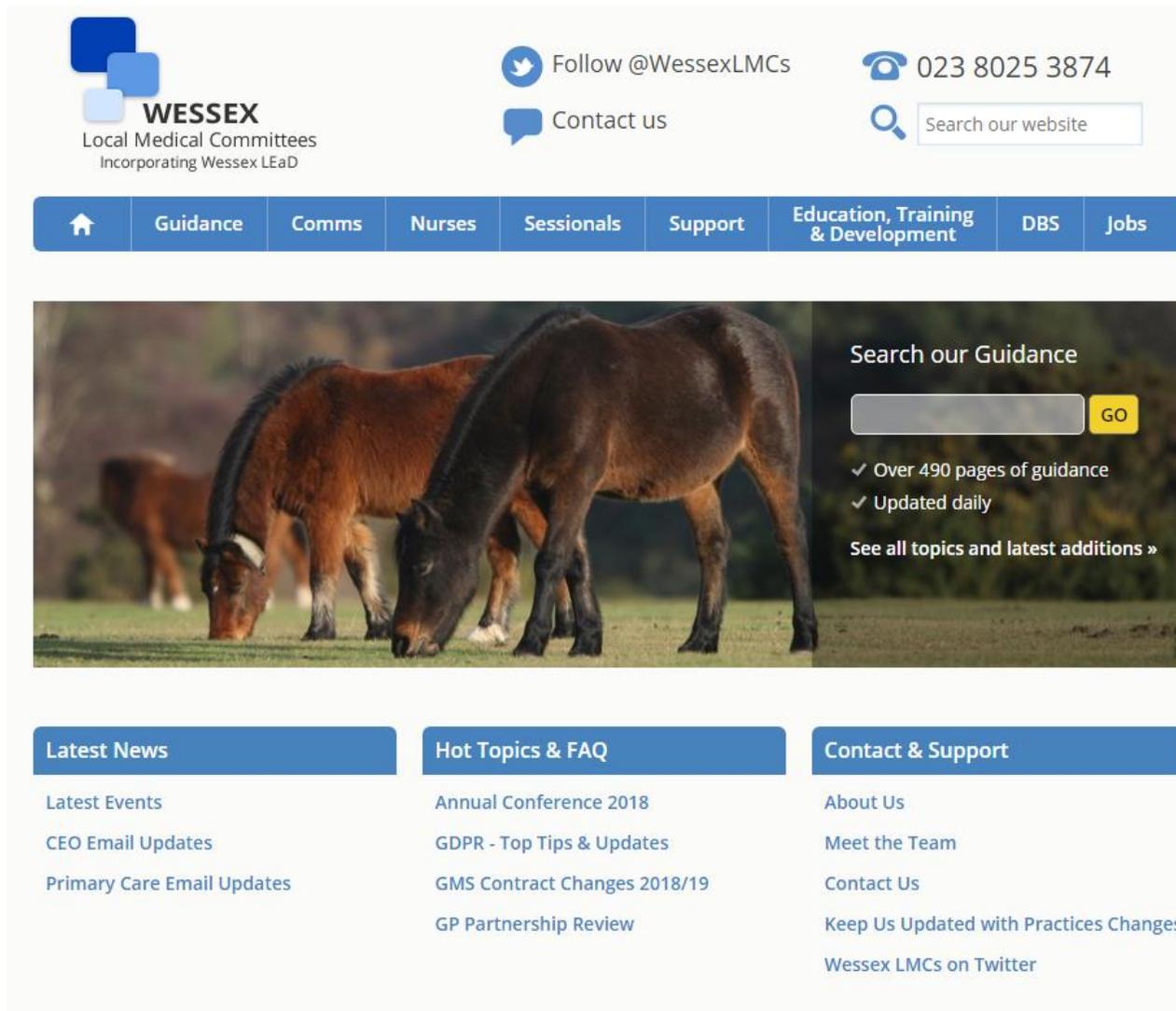
Facebook: @Wessex Local Medical Committees Ltd

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Chandler's Ford, Eastleigh, Hampshire SO53 1JB

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Useful Links. . .



The screenshot shows the Wessex website homepage. At the top left is the Wessex logo with the text 'WESSEX Local Medical Committees Incorporating Wessex LEaD'. To the right are social media links: 'Follow @WessexLMCs' with a Twitter icon and 'Contact us' with a speech bubble icon. Further right is a phone number '023 8025 3874' and a search bar with the text 'Search our website'. Below this is a navigation menu with buttons for 'Home', 'Guidance', 'Comms', 'Nurses', 'Sessionals', 'Support', 'Education, Training & Development', 'DBS', and 'Jobs'. The main content area features a large image of horses grazing in a field. Overlaid on the right side of this image is a search box for 'Search our Guidance' with a 'GO' button. Below the search box are two checkmarks: 'Over 490 pages of guidance' and 'Updated daily', followed by a link 'See all topics and latest additions »'. At the bottom, there are three columns of content: 'Latest News' with links for 'Latest Events', 'CEO Email Updates', and 'Primary Care Email Updates'; 'Hot Topics & FAQ' with links for 'Annual Conference 2018', 'GDPR - Top Tips & Updates', 'GMS Contract Changes 2018/19', and 'GP Partnership Review'; and 'Contact & Support' with links for 'About Us', 'Meet the Team', 'Contact Us', 'Keep Us Updated with Practices Changes', and 'Wessex LMCs on Twitter'.

Guidance:

<https://www.wessexlmcs.com/guidance>

Communications / Email Updates:

<https://www.wessexlmcs.com/communications>

Nursing Team:

<https://www.wessexlmcs.com/thenursingteam>

Sessionals:

<https://www.wessexlmcs.com/sessionals>

Support:

<https://www.wessexlmcs.com/support>

Training & Events:

<https://www.wessexlmcs.com/education>

DBS:

<https://www.wessexlmcs.com/dbs>

Jobs:

<https://www.wessexlmcs.com/jobs>

Acknowledgements

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Notes



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WESSEX

Local Medical Committees

Incorporating Wessex LEaD

. . . the professional voice of General Practice

Tel. 02380 253874

www.wessexlmcs.com