

LOCAL MEDICAL COMMITTEE LIMITED

Representing and Supporting GPs



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OVERVIEW 2019/2020

The final month of the year (March) saw the Coronavirus pandemic swamp the UK. General practice has responded magnificently in the early weeks and this will no doubt be a big feature in next years report. For now, the LMC Committee and Executive Team would like to say a huge thank you to all our colleagues in general practice.

During the year the focus for the LMC's Executive Team has been influencing the shape of the revised strategic commissioning and provider side of the Cheshire health and care system, engaging in proposals for a single Cheshire CCG and two Integrated Care Partnerships. At the end of March, we appointed two new Associate Medical Directors to act as key links to the two ICPs.

We have continued to emphasise the need for true general practice engagement at all levels of these new structures – including formal representation at the key decision-making levels.

Our 'Cheshire LMC Fit for the Future Review' (August 2018) has continued to direct our internal

modernisation. In November, at our AGM, our new constitution was approved. Our elected representatives are now aligned to each of our 18 PCNs (there will be a transitional phase until April 2021 – with some current members continuing and others being co-opted until the next formal elections).

As part of this, we engaged in a membership recruitment drive which has seen seven new members joining the LMC. We also said 'goodbye' to our long serving and popular Chair Dorothy King. A salaried GP in Chester Dorothy had a long history of serving general practice in Cheshire and was a sage chairman of the Committee, leading with a clear direction and wise words. She was highly respected in the wider health system and a great ambassador for the LMC.

We are pleased to note that Dorothy has agreed to work with us in a sessional capacity to help establish an educational programme for sessional GPs. Cheshire LMC continues to represent all Cheshire GPs in our changing NHS, working in partnership with local GP federations where this is beneficial to our joint membership.

The LMC has worked hard to raise the collective voice and profile of our GPs, at a local level and we have invested heavily to ensure we have strong networked relationships with the key organisations and decision-makers across Cheshire.

We have done this in a firm but cooperative way that has built a good working relationship with our CCGs enabling a great deal of successful discussion and negotiation. We hope to see this continue with the single Cheshire CCG in the next year. We are also hoping to put some focus on developing relationships with the Local Authorities and the local NHS acute and community trusts.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- Throughout the financial year, your LMC team has continued its work on behalf of constituent GPs and practices to ensure the views of general practice are heard and views accepted
- ✔ Practice Manager Development Programme delivered in 2019/2020
- ✓ Pastoral Care Scheme in place
- Successful challenges to decisions by the CCGs in support of our GPs

- ✓ Detailed guidance issued to practices regarding the 2019/2020 GP contract agreement and new Primary Care Network DES changes
- Amended constitution and Articles of Association approved at the AGM in November – aligning PCNs to representative seats on the Committee
- ✓ 2019/2020 Annual Accounts signed off by accountants with no statements

We have worked very hard to bring the needs of general practice to the fore with our local CCGs. In return, the embryonic 'combined' CCG has worked closely with the LMC to ensure general practice has strong representation within the new single Cheshire CCG due to be established on 1 April 2020.

SUPPORTING OUR GPs

As a member organisation, the LMC sees its core function as supporting our local GPs. This year we have continued to provide hands-on support to our individual members and their practices.

We have been engaged in discussions with the four Cheshire CCGs about their proposals for a single CCG. We have been lobbying for the best level of meaningful engagement of general practice in the proposed governance structures. We have continued to engage with West Cheshire ICP and questioned the lack of similar engagement in Eastern Cheshire. These new partnership arrangements continue to develop only slowly at present.

We issued a discussion paper titled "The GP Voice in the New Health System" which was well received by other parties and helped clarify our position on these developments and the need for real GP engagement, if they are to be successful.

Operationally, we have continued to push back to stop un-resourced work being driven into general practice. This has been done with NHS and Local Authority Commissioners and NHS Trusts. The team has supported practices with partnership disputes, rent reviews and individual service issues. We have again helped practices successfully escalate and gain speedy resolution to problems involving CCG and NHSE funding decisions.

In March, we took an active role in working with our CCGs and the wider health and care system to support general practices' respond to the coronavirus outbreak.

SUPPORTING PRACTICE DEVELOPMENT

The LMC has continued its work in supporting practices to develop their PCN arrangements and take a proactive approach to working at scale. We have focused on practice management as an agent for change and developing practice managers as system leads in a series of training and development sessions. We have provided detailed guidance and advice to help equip GPs and practices to plan for their future. This work helped ensure each PCN was signed off by NHSE and the CCGs.

We held our first Annual GP Conference in September 2019. This proved very popular with 140 delegates attending. A full day event, colleagues could dip in and out of workshops to suit them, it covered a wide range of topics including the GP Partnership Review, PCN development and general practice working with the new Integrated Care Partnerships.

WHAT WE DO TO HELP YOU

The following services are available free of charge to all Cheshire GP practices who pay the statutory levy (£0.388 pence per patient annually).

- Technical contract advice for your practice
- Partnership support including advice, support and mediation on internal partnership issues
- Premises advice and help with the appeals process
- Representation for your practice with NHSE, CCG, CQC, GMC, GPC etc.
- Practical detailed up-to-date advice on the new GP contract and PCNs
- Pastoral care support
- Representation at CCG commissioning meetings

- and a voice on financial investment groups such as the pan Cheshire Estates Group and Primary Care Commissioning Groups
- Information governance advice
- A dedicated web site with the latest BMA and other guidance
- Training and Development workshops
- Facilitation at practice or PCN meetings
- Monthly newsletter briefings on hot topics

Please note this is not an exhaustive list of our support for you. For a more in depth list, visit www.cheshirelmcs.org.uk or contact the LMC office.

SUPPORTING GENERAL PRACTICE OF THE FUTURE

At the end of the current 'year' the NHS and care system is facing the biggest pandemic in living memory. General practice is at the forefront of the response – often without access to some of the supporting equipment and detailed infrastructure needed. Despite this, General Practice has responded with flexibility, innovative working and speed.

As your LMC, we will do everything we can to support your needs and champion your voice and concerns. We will continue over the coming year to enhance the depth and breadth of our two-way engagement with all our members as well as with our commissioners, regulators and co-providers, to help create a safe and sustainable response.

We are planning our longer term support by arranging it into a number of phases, reflecting and establishing 'normal' business, including mainstreaming new ways of working and information technology aided consultation where it is seen as beneficial to patients and workload.

Dr Stephen Kaye, Chair & Dr Branwen Martin, Medical Director

FINANCIAL SUMMARY TO YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020

BALANCE SHEET	2019	2020
Fixed assets	7,212	4,594
Tangible assets	31,357	26,219
Current assets Debtors	226,884	222,566
Cash at bank and in hand	258,241	248,785
Total Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(27,284)	(22,185)
Net current assets	230,957	226,600
Total assets less current liabilities	238,169	231,194
Reserves	238,169	231,194

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND RETAINED EARNINGS	2019	2020
Income	362,353	377,703
Administrative expenses	313,128	384,471
(Deficit)/surplus before taxation	49,225	(6,768)
Tax on (deficit)/surplus	238	207
(Deficit)/surplus for the financial year	48,987	(6,975)
Retained earnings brought forward	189,182	238,169
Retained earnings carried forward	238,169	231,194

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

Note:

Statutory Levy – Annual Pence per Patient £0.388 National Levy – Annual Pence per Patient £0.065

⁽Members may request full detailed figures which are available from the Company Secretary).

WHAT PEOPLE SAY ABOUT US

The LMC has been a great help in assisting our practice in difficult internal negotiations with a partnership dispute.

GP Partner

As a relatively new manager the LMC's Practice Manager workshops have been excellent and very worthwhile. The fact they are backed by access to a web site containing opportunities to post questions and find further up to date guidance and resources has been great.

Practice Manager

I approached the LMC for advice on a number of PCN DES issues. Their advice was clear, precise and very helpful.

PCN Clinical Director

Cheshire LMC has again proved itself as a proactive forward thinking LMC which we have been happy to support.

Executive Director North West Leadership Academy

The LMC's Officers have organised some great clinical educational sessions during the year which are much appreciated by myself and colleagues.

Sessional GP

LMC Officers were a great help with our recent rent review which has now been successfully actioned.

GP Partner

CLMC Office Address: Office 04, The Weston Centre, Weston Road, Crewe, CW1 6FL

Telephone: 01244 313 483 **Online:** www.cheshirelmcs.org.uk