



# YOR Local Medical Committee Ltd Bradford & Airedale Branch

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YOR Local Medical Committee Limited (YORLMC Ltd) • **Bradford & Airedale Branch**

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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

# CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION.....	3
OVERVIEW – YORLMC LTD BRADFORD & AIREDALE BRANCH.....	5
WHAT THE BRADFORD & AIREDALE BRANCH OF YORLMC LTD DOES .....	7
AVAILABLE ADVICE.....	8
REPRESENTATION AND NEGOTIATION .....	9
KEEPING UP TO DATE WITH YORLMC Ltd .....	12
TERMINOLOGY USED BY LMCS .....	13
CORPORATE AFFAIRS TEAM CONTACT DETAILS .....	15
The Work of the Local Medical Committee in England and Wales.....	Appendix 1

## INTRODUCTION

A Local Medical Committee (LMC) is the body statutorily recognised by successive NHS Acts as the professional organisation representing individual GPs and GPs as a whole to the Strategic Health Authority, including Primary Care Organisations.

The 1999 NHS Act extended the LMC role to include representation of all GPs whatever their contractual status. This includes sessional GPs and GP registrars.

LMCs are not for profit professional associations, for all NHS GPs within the boundaries of their designated geographical area and regardless of whether GPs are members of the BMA.

LMCs are independent self-financing bodies with statutory functions - see appendix A and are not trade unions.

LMCs are funded by contributions from the GPs they represent. The greater proportion of an LMC's income is provided by a levy on GP practices. This levy is used for LMC administrative expenses. The full amount is already included in the global sum payment for GMS and PMS practices. Additionally a voluntary levy enables LMCs to contribute to the General Medical Defence Trust Fund, which is used to fund GP representation at national level and in negotiations with the Government. The voluntary levy is a business expense and can be charged against tax. The voluntary levy also funds capital items plus a small number of LMC activities not covered by the LMC levy and enables the LMC to make regular donations to charities such as the Cameron Fund, which helps GPs and their families in times of crisis.

LMC advice is pragmatic, based on accurate knowledge of the system and is completely unbiased.

In order to continue to provide high quality services for GPs, LMCs need to adapt to change. They have been advised that individual committee members could face significant personal liability, and this was felt locally to be an unsatisfactory situation given the complex nature of the work LMC members are carrying out on behalf of all GPs in Bradford & Airedale. In order to safeguard committee members from personal risk it was agreed that this could be best achieved through the formation of a company limited by guarantee to undertake the majority of business previously conducted by Bradford & Airedale LMC (BALMC) and North Yorkshire LMC (NYLMC).

The outcome is that the majority of the work formerly carried out by BALMC and NYLMC is now being undertaken under the umbrella of YORLMC Ltd by the Bradford & Airedale and North Yorkshire Branches of the Company supported by a joint Corporate Affairs Team. This organisation has no shareholders and will remain a non - profit making organisation.

This paper aims to provide you with an overview of YORLMC Ltd and how it seeks to represent and promote the interests of all constituent GPs whatever their contractual status at local, regional and national levels.

This paper also suggests way in which you are able to keep up to date with the Bradford & Airedale branch of YORLMC Ltd and useful contact details can be found at the end of this bulletin.

## **OVERVIEW – YORLMC LTD BRADFORD & AIREDALE BRANCH**

Locally, YORLMC Ltd, Bradford & Airedale Branch works to represent and promote the interests of all constituent GPs, whatever their contractual status, thus including GP Principals, sessional GPs and GP registrars working within GMS & PMS.

Wherever possible, the B&A Branch works co-operatively with the tPCT and other organisations to ensure patients receive services and care in accordance with the profession's local and national priorities.

Wherever necessary, the B&A Branch robustly defends the profession's views when those of others conflict with what it believes is in patients' best interests.

The B&A Branch has been the only statutorily recognised professional association for NHS GPs in its designated geographical area since 1973 and its focus is on the protection of the interests of NHS GPs through the rapid dissemination of reliable information.

The Joint Chief Executives of YORLMC Ltd are:

Dr John Givans & Dr Dougy Moederle-Lumb

- In addition to his role as Joint Chief Executive, Dr Dougy Moederle-Lumb is a single handed GP principal and an elected representative of the BMA's General Practitioner Committee (GPC). He attends the monthly GPC meetings which provide a regular opportunity to present nationally, the views of local GPs and also to learn about events and share ideas with representatives from other areas of the country.

The Officers of the B&A Branch are:

Chair: Dr Andy Withers, GP principal, Allerton

Vice Chair: Dr Judith Danby, GP principal, Manningham

### **GPR Representatives**

- Dr Abigail Howgego - howgego@talktalk.net
- Dr Mutaz Al-Dawoud - maldawoud@doctors.org.uk

Elections to the B&A Branch take place regularly under terms stipulated in its constitution, which is approved by the Secretary of State for Health, and any GP working in the area may be nominated for election.

B&A Branch meetings are attended by GP Members elected by local GPs and co-opted Members, representatives of sessional GPs and GP Registrars. An open invitation has been issued to the Chief Executives of the local hospital trusts and tPCT. The BMA Industrial Relations Officer also attends the B&A Branch meetings and, when appropriate, invited guest speakers also attend to speak about issues of topical interest.

The B&A Branch also works with the other local representative committees, namely the Dental, Ophthalmic and Pharmaceutical Committees.

The B&A Branch also maintains an extensive network of formal and informal contacts on behalf of GPs – these include other LMCs, the wider BMA, LRCs MPs and local government.

## **WHAT THE BRADFORD & AIREDALE BRANCH OF YORLMC LTD DOES**

The B&A Branch represents and advises on all matters concerning:

### **GPs as providers of NHS services including:**

- The NHS Directions, regulations, the GPs' Terms of Service and the PMS (Personal Medical Services) equivalent
- Strategic Health Authority & Primary Care Trust (PCT) policy
- The NHS complaints process and disciplinary procedures
- Liaison with other agencies, including Local Authorities, Social Services, voluntary services

### **GPs as commissioners of services including:**

- Primary Care Trust – YORLMC Ltd has the right to be consulted about the use of GMS resources by Bradford & Airedale tPCT
- Community and Acute Trusts

### **GPs as professionals:**

- Education and training – undergraduate, postgraduate and vocational training, continuing professional development
- Professionally-led regulation and professional standards – ethical, conduct and performance, including clinical governance
- Workforce planning
- Liaison with consultant and hospital colleagues
- Collaboration with the General Medical Council
- Collaboration with national professional bodies – British Medical Association, Royal College of General Practitioners
- Occupational health issues, e.g. sick doctors
- Liaison with other professions allied to medicine

Please be aware that YORLMC Ltd is not able to provide legal (or financial) advice but it can provide support to individuals and practices including acting as a “friend” at meetings.

## **AVAILABLE ADVICE**

Typically the type of advice and guidance available from YORLMC Ltd includes:

- Complaints and disciplinary matters
- Sick doctors services
- NHS Contracts – both GMS & PMS
- NHS Regulations
- Statutory Certification
- Demands/Requests for reports, certificates, opinions from Government Departments, Local Authorities, solicitors, commercial organisations, voluntary organisations, NHS establishments etc
- Data Protection & Access to Medical Record Acts
- Partnership and inter professional relationships and disputes
- Practice Premises
- Ethical aspects of practice

Additionally YORLMC Ltd is able to provide help and advice on all matters relevant to general practice including:

- GPs' remuneration
- GPs' terms and conditions of service
- Partnership affairs
- Any disputes which may occur between GPs and the PCT

## **REPRESENTATION AND NEGOTIATION**

LMCs nationally represent local GPs' views through the professional representative mechanisms outlined below:

### ➤ **Local Representation**

The B&A Branch consists of GPs elected on a constituency basis, and includes representation from GMS and PMS GPs, sessional GPs and GP registrars. In addition, members are co-opted when appropriate.

The B&A Branch meets regularly in full session and where necessary between meetings in executive. The B&A Branch representatives host regular locality meetings for their GP colleagues and practice managers, meet with the tPCT and, where appropriate, with other organisations.

GPs can submit proposals to the B&A Branch at any time, preferably via the Corporate Affairs Team. Proposals are gathered from debate at the B&A Branch over the course of the year for submission to the Annual Conference of LMCs.

Recent debate at the B&A Branch has included:

nGMS & PMS; practice funding, including PBC, enhanced services and the provision of core and non core services; IM&T; tPCT consultations; premises; Prescribing/Nurse Prescribing; Referral Management; Tackling Violence against GPs and their Staff; Darzi; APMS; Choice; Pandemic Flu Planning, GP Appraisal; GPSI; Hep B

The issues negotiated locally mirror those at national level. National negotiations also include the submission of evidence to the Doctors' and Dentists' Review Body for pay purposes.

### ➤ **Regional Representation**

The B&A Branch of YORLMC Ltd works closely with the other LMCs within the Yorkshire and Humber Strategic Health Authority Region. Its Corporate Affairs Team also administers the work carried out by the West Yorkshire Confederation of LMCs which, in addition to the Bradford & Airedale Branch, also comprises Calderdale, Kirklees, Leeds and Wakefield LMCs. The West Yorkshire Confederation meets on a regular but infrequent basis and seeks to work closely with the SHA. This structure provides the opportunity to discuss issues on a regional basis and where appropriate, develop regional policy. It also allows ideas to be shared across LMC areas and is of particular benefit where the SHA sets policy that applies to the entire region.

## ➤ **National Representation**

The B&A Branch communicates regularly with the GPC, which is recognised by the DH as the only national negotiating body representing the interests of all GPs, regardless of whether they have BMA membership. As already stated YORLMC Ltd has a direct link to the GPC through Dr Moederle-Lumb.

The 'parliament' for GPs is the General Practitioners Committee (GPC) which meets monthly throughout the year. It is one of seven craft committees which make up the BMA, is a UK wide committee which seeks to promote general practice and to protect its fundamental characteristics and interests.

The outcome of GPC debate determines the framework for the profession's negotiations at both national and local levels. The GPC is the standing committee of the BMA with full authority to deal with all matters affecting NHS GPs, whether or not they are BMA members. It is recognised by the DH as NHS GPs' sole negotiating body. Every part of the country has at least one spokesperson on the GPC to present its views and debate key issues and throughout the year, papers are produced for discussion at LMCs and from time to time the GPC consults all GPs directly through surveys and questionnaires.

National negotiation takes place continually between the Secretary of State and their team of negotiators and the profession's national negotiating team. The Secretary of State's team is supported by the senior civil service, the NHSE and the resources of the NHS. The profession's national negotiating team is elected annually by members of the GPC, and is supported by other professionals including public affairs and relations staff.

Every year representatives of YORLMC Ltd attend the Annual Conference of LMCs. The Conference debates motions submitted by individual LMCs and decides the agenda for the profession's negotiations both nationally and locally. Additionally, YORLMC Ltd communicates directly with the GPC on a regular basis via its Corporate Affairs Team function and GPC liaison officer for the Northern & Yorkshire Region.

## ➤ **GPC Sub-Committees**

The GPC has nine sub committees, one of which is the **GP Trainees sub committee**. (<http://www.bma.org.uk/ap.nsf/Content/Hubgeneralpractitionerregistrarssubcommittee>) It represents nationally the interests of all GP trainees. It deals specifically with all issues relating to GP training and negotiates directly with the DH and NHS Employers organisation on many areas including pay and contractual issues. Representatives on this sub committee also attend meetings that make decisions about GP Registrar training and future career developments. Examples of meetings attended include the BMA's GPC, the Junior Doctors Committee, the Joint Committee on Postgraduate Training for General Practice (JCPTGP), and the Summative Assessment Advisory Group.

## **To summarise, the Bradford & Airedale Branch of YORLMC Ltd is:**

A source of advice and support for all GPs and practices on all matters affecting their professional lives and activities especially at times of major change

A gateway to pastoral care and personal confidential support for GPs and practices in difficulty

### **Additionally it is**

**A DEMOCRATIC BODY** elected by and made up of local GPs, which seeks to represent all types of GPs including sessional GPs and GPRs

**A REPRESENTATIVE BODY** which regularly seeks to canvass the views of local GPs and represent them to the tPCT, the Strategic Health Authority and other local and national organisations, and which acts as a focus for debate on issues which affect GPs

**A CONSTITUTIONAL BODY** with rights and responsibilities defined by statute in NHS Acts and Regulations, which serves as the 'local representative committee' for all GMS and PMS GPs

**A PROFESSIONAL BODY** concerned to promote quality and uphold standards of professional practice through encouragement and example in co-operation with other bodies interested in education and quality

**AN INDEPENDENT BODY** that represents the interests of general practice alone and acts as its advocate, free of political constraints and of the need to satisfy other interests

## **KEEPING UP TO DATE WITH YORLMC Ltd**

Make the most of your YORLMC Ltd by:

1. Ensuring the YORLMC Corporate Affairs Team has your contact details and that you advise any changes so these can be kept up to date
2. Using the YORLMC Ltd website (<http://www.yorlmltd.co.uk/home>) which provides
  - a) accurate up-to-date information to help you keep abreast of changes in the Health Service.
  - b) expert advice and support from an experienced team of professionals
  - c) links to national documentation from the GPC, BMA, DH and other key web sites.
  - d) monthly newsletters summarising the latest key information that you need to know.
3. Getting involved with your YORLMC Ltd by becoming a local representative
4. Providing feedback to questionnaires, polls and surveys
5. Promoting the benefits of YORLMC Ltd to fellow GPRs

## TERMINOLOGY USED BY LMCS

It could be easy to become deterred by the many acronyms and abbreviations used by LMCs (and PCTs). The websites quoted on the following pages will provide useful sources of reference but one area that GP registrars regularly seek to understand when starting work in general practice is enhanced services.

Following the introduction of the new GMS contract in 2004, practices are expected to provide essential and those additional services they are contracted to provide to all their patients. However, a number of tasks that were performed routinely in general practice by GPs or employed practice staff, were no longer funded under nGMS as essential or additional services and from April 2004 there has been no requirement for practices to continue to provide these services unless they are contracted as an enhanced service. The responsibility for ensuring the continuation of these services (the Patient Service Guarantee) lies with PCTs.

Enhanced services therefore are

- i. essential or additional services delivered to a higher specified standard, for example, extended minor surgery
- ii. services not provided through essential or additional services. These might include more specialised services undertaken by GPs or nurses with special interests and allied health professionals and other services at the primary-secondary care interface. They may also include services addressing specific local health needs or requirements, and innovative services that are being piloted and evaluated.

Enhanced services officially came into effect on 1 April 2004 and fall into two categories

- i. **directed enhanced services** (DESSs) – those services that PCTs are nationally directed to commission
- ii. **local enhanced services** (LESSs) – are based on the same principles as the DESSs but are developed in response to local need. The terms and conditions are discussed and agreed locally between practices and the tPCT, with either party able to ask YORLMC Ltd for its support in the process.

Further information is available at

<http://www.bma.org.uk/ap.nsf/Content/HubEnhancedServices>

Negotiations also take place between the B&A Branch and the tPCT to ensure the PCT's allocated enhanced service funding is spent appropriately on local primary health care services. The tPCT also has a Clinical Executive (previously known as Professional Executive Committee [PEC]) which supports the tPCT in its development of primary care services. The tPCT's Clinical Executive must have a majority of

members whose professional work reflects the function of the tPCT and can include GPs, nurses, social workers, pharmacists, dentists and opticians. In contrast to YORLMC Ltd, GP members of the Clinical Executive are not representative of the profession.

## **CORPORATE AFFAIRS TEAM CONTACT DETAILS**

The Bradford & Airedale Branch of YORLMC Ltd  
First Floor, 87-89 Leeds Road, Harrogate, North Yorkshire HG2 8BE  
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The Joint Chief Executives and Branch Officers should be contacted in the first instance via the Corporate Affairs Team

- Senior Company Liaison Officer  
Belinda Smith - [belinda.smith@yorlmcld.co.uk](mailto:belinda.smith@yorlmcld.co.uk)
- Company Liaison Officer  
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YORLMC Ltd website - <http://www.yorlmcld.co.uk/>

(Please note the YORLMC Ltd web site is in the process of development. If there is any information practices require that is not yet available on the site please let the Corporate Affairs Team know – they will be happy to forward it to you.