

DDLMC 2023/24 AGM Chair's annual report

This AGM presents the report for the financial year 2023-24.

I would like to express my thanks to the levy paying practices who are at the heart of DDLMC. Without your ongoing support we would not be able to achieve what we have. We have had a new levy paying practice join this year and I would like to welcome them to DDLMC.

Each levy paying practice, across a PCN footprint, elects up to two committee representatives. The current committee was elected in September 2021 with new members joining along the way where vacancies have arisen. We also have practice managers attend the committee and they are a fantastic resource, and they certainly keep us in check!

Every committee member has embraced their role and the level of scrutiny is high. The committee is the decision-making body of DDLMC, with the directors (also committee members) supporting the direction of travel and guiding the DDLMC office team.

As a committee, we meet every month alternating between online and face to face. We have many invitees to the committee meetings, examples of which have included Ben Pearson, Medical Directors DCHS, Chris Clayton, CEO Derby and Derbyshire ICB, Gisella Robinson, Executive Medical Director UHDB, Kevin Sargen, Medical Director CRH and representatives from Community Pharmacy Derbyshire (the LPC) to name a few.

I am sure you will agree that the office team make an invaluable contribution to DDLMC. Hayley Scott, Practice Liaison Officer and Lily Southern, Practice Liaison Support Officer are the first point of contact for many of you when issues or queries arise and they do a fantastic job arranging the lunch and learn meetings. Alex Beviss, our Accounts Administrator, keeps the finances (and committee) in check while Beth Hagan, Executive PA, has the challenging role of ensuring that the committee and directors meetings run smoothly. Ben Milton, as Medical Director, represents General Practice across the system. In addition to supporting practices Ben has worked hard on the ongoing issues around the primary/secondary care interface with regular interactions with fellow Medical Directors and other executives across the provider trusts.

Whilst we welcomed David Gibbs back to the LMC at the start of the year we also, sadly, bid Dave an unexpected farewell at the end of the year. I am grateful to Dave for his input during his time back at the LMC and the integrity he showed during his time in post. Dave raised concerns regarding the financial management of the LMC and as Chair I must acknowledge, and take responsibility, for the failure of the directors to identify and address the historical issues Dave identified. During the 23/24 year we corrected anomalies in the accounts we had reported at previous AGMs and also paid back a rebate to practices at the year end, refunding unspent levy

monies. This recognised the fact that after several years of needing to make a profit- to build our reserves back up to a safe level, the LMC is now in a sound financial position and further profit (which would accrue an unnecessary corporation tax liability) was not appropriate. Going forwards we have already put in place stronger governance and better financial planning and reporting to avoid a similar situation in the future.

DDLMC committee representatives also make up half of the GP Provider Board directors, with one each from Derby City, North and South Derbyshire alongside a PCN representative from each of the areas. This ensures a common approach to the issues facing General Practice and gives the LMC a strong voice in the strategic future of General Practice as well as the day to day issues of practice support.

I would like to thank Simeon Rackham and John Ashcroft, who stepped down as directors within the financial year 23-24. Sam Thomson (and more recently Jo Swindell) have been appointed as directors in their place and are very welcome additions to the team.

This was my second year in post and, as well as the internal changes, we saw many changes externally. We continue to participate in the England and UK Nations LMC conferences along with the LMC Secretariat conference. Prior to the conferences the committee propose and submit motions for debate and potential inclusion into GPCE policy. Several committee members along with the PM attendees have attended and represented DDLMC over the course of the year.

Despite all the hard work we must acknowledge the huge strain that General Practice continues to struggle with. I would like to thank each member of your practices for all the hard work and dedication that you have shown during these hostile and difficult times. We know that workload has gone up and yet we continue to face increasing financial costs. Despite this, each one of you continues to do your best to maintain excellent care for your patients.

DDLMC continues to provide resources to help practices manage these pressures, including template letters, safe working documents and, more recently, advice on how to implement the collective actions. Please continue to use your committee representatives to highlight your concerns so we can tackle them on your behalf.

Once again, I would like to thank you for your contribution and support over the last year. It has been a privilege to be your LMC Chair. I thank you for this opportunity and wish you all well for the forthcoming year.

Dr Merryl Watkins.