

Lothian LMC AGM

Monday March 9th 2020

Medical Director's report

This year I intend to keep this report brief, in recognition of the detailed overview given in the Chair's report of the work of the LMC office and the wider committee.

Some of you may have noticed that this is the Medical Director's report and not the previously named Medical Secretaries report. The committee agreed to adopt this change in the title of the office bearers who support the Chair following a motion debated and passed at the Scottish LMC conference last year. This had been prompted by a study showing that nearly all people questioned, the majority of whom were fellow health professionals and health management were not aware that a Medical Secretary in this setting was a qualified and practising GP. This change aligns us with most other Scottish LMCs.

There have been no changes in personnel in the past 12 months within the LMC Office. We are extremely fortunate to continue to have the resource to fund our business co-ordinator post and sufficient time and resource for the office bearers to carry out their roles. Many of the smaller Scottish LMCs are not in this position. Without the LMC levy paid by 119 of the 120 practices the vast majority of the work we do to support GPs in Lothian would not be possible. We remain cognisant always that we are funded by and thus directly accountable to Lothian GPs.

There have been changes to the wider committee members this year. Sarah Little and Dave Cuthbert stepped down from their respective West Lothian seats, Helen Faulding-Bird and David Wilson stepped down from their North west Edinburgh seats. Theresa Cameron stepped down after many years as our practice manager representative. The committee is extremely grateful to Theresa for her time providing a valuable and different perspective on the issues discussed by the committee. Janet Henderson stood down as our LASGP representative and we are particularly grateful to Janet for her role in forging stronger links between the sessional GP community and the LMC, links that we intend to continue to foster and strengthen.

2 of our longest serving committee members have also very recently stepped down or are stepping down from their seats, Steve Haigh representing West Lothian and Jim Cowan representing South West Edinburgh. Jim is standing down after tonight's meeting. There is no doubt that the committee will have lost 2 wise voices who provided reasoned and insightful opinion and who are highly respected by those who have had the privilege to work with and learn from them. We wish Steve, Jim and all the other committee members who have stepped down this year thanks and best wishes for the future.

It naturally follows on that we have welcomed many new faces to the committee. It has been heartening and we hope represents a heightened interest and awareness of medical politics, that we have filled every seat that has come up for election this year and we continue to have full representation across Lothian. We welcomed Catherine Smith and Rory O'Conaire for North West Edinburgh, Nick Payne for South West Edinburgh, Elizabeth Strachan, Kerri Greene and Neil MacRitchie for West Lothian, Kim Rollinson returns to the committee as the LASGP/sessional GP

representative and Sandra Allen and Ryan Addison are going to job share and represent practice manager colleagues.

We are also delighted that this year we agreed with LUCS, the funding that enables us to have a seat specifically to represent OOHs GPs and Kate Hill is the new current OOHs representative. As far as we are aware, we are the only Scottish LMC that has specific and different seats for sessional and retainer and OOHs GPs. Despite the above we are not complacent and we recognise that there is always more that can be done to ensure that we are doing our best to represent all GPs who work in Lothian.

With that in mind, I would like to remind all who have attended tonight or who are later reading this report, that the LMC welcomes all GPs to attend our monthly meetings as observers and that we are constantly reaching out to the wider GP community to fill important paid interface roles. In addition, all representative seats come up for re-election every 4 years and we would encourage anyone with an interest in medical politics and in making a positive change for GPs and our patients to consider standing for these seats even if the current incumbent is also standing for re-election. We also encourage communication by the GP population with our committee, either through the office or the locality representatives if there are issues you feel the LMC ought to be addressing at a national/local or practice level. We don't always have the answers or the power to make the changes needed but we will do our best to help. Thank you.

Dr Jenny English

Medical Director Lothian LMC

March 2020