

LMC 2026 AGM - Medical Directors Report

Good evening everyone.

What a cataclysmic twelve months general practice has had, not only in Lothian, but nationally too. From a Diabetes LES being swiped from under our feet and an SLA battle that continues to rage on, to almost full scale strike against the Scottish Government. Thankfully we are now on the precipice of generational funding that promises to provide the reviving cash injection the profession so desperately needs. Sprinkle on a Wester Hailes GP Walk In Centre, and here you have a taste of the mash up we, as a committee, have had to grapple with and negotiate over the past year.

What has been consistent and steady however, has been us – you and me. I look around this room and I see dependable, honest, hard-working and often down-right gritty colleagues. Colleagues I am grateful and frequently humbled to work alongside.

This committee has minimally changed in the past year, in fact only one seat. I'd like to thank Joanna Loudon for her service as Retainer rep, and welcome again Katie MacKenzie to her seat, seeking to represent honourably an important branch of our profession.

Perhaps the fact that there has been little change in committee has allowed us to roll our sleeves up, to dig in and to stand firm. There have been some very tough decisions we have had to make this year, but I know we have represented our colleagues well, with grace, professionalism and passion, and for that, I want to thank each and every one of you for the time and dedication you give to this job. It can at times feel like you are drowning in a quagmire of inappropriate workload shift, resource stagnation and PCIP contract failings. But the cracks of light from pieces of work such as The Interface Document and the setting up of a Community Phlebotomy Short Life Working Group; as well as battles won such as new and uplifted Enhanced Services, encourage us to stand firm and to truly reflect the value and worth of General Practice.

Furthermore, let us not under-estimate what each LMC across the country has done, to motivate and support our SGPC and its negotiators in securing generational funding, and also ensuring the profession is brought along with it. It can feel tough, and I know that I wouldn't keep showing up if it wasn't for the brilliant colleagues that we work for, and with, and on that note in particular, I look to my truly extraordinary Office colleagues.

First and foremost I must thank Nicola Smith who quite frankly is the back bone of the Office. She works so tremendously hard to support us all, not just Office bearers, but the Executive team, the wider committee and indeed all Lothian practices. Without her organisation, I fear we would never turn up to a meeting on time, but indeed her increasing wisdom and knowledge of General Practice over the years now means she often keeps us right on many contractual and organisational matters, writing minutes and replying to constituent emails, far more eloquently than many of us could. She is a joy to work with and Lothian LMC are truly very lucky to have her as our business co-ordinator.

To my fellow Medical Director Neil MacRitchie. Ever the balanced, cautious voice of reason and pragmatism. His wealth of experience from not just working in Lothian, but also Grampian, makes him an irreplaceable asset to the team, and though he sometimes be a man of minimal words, what he does say is balanced, fair and almost always correct. His extraordinary ability to recall details of almost any document or contract is his super-power, as well as his gentle encouragement and support to all that need it.

And to our Chair Andy Forder. The man that does not sleep. The sheer amount of hard work, time and effort he dedicates for the good of General Practice is awe-inspiring. He has brought fresh ideas into the Office, including a Chair's newsletter and many LMC position papers, which I

know practices and GPs alike greatly value. He has also brought a tremendous sense of fight. Fighting for what is right for General Practice – to protect our core values, our worth and our well-being. I personally have found him dependable and tremendously supportive, and I know many colleagues here this evening, and many practices and GPs across Lothian, feel the same.

Lothian LMC's voice has not only been heard locally, but nationally as well, with once again brilliant representation at Scottish LMC Conference. Speakers spoke with passion and eloquence, with all our motions supported and many passed unanimously, showing not only the respect we have within our own Board area, but our neighbouring Scottish Boards too.

We also continue to represent nationally at SGPC, with our representative members adding knowledgeably and articulately to debate. We all remain deeply proud of our colleague Iain Morrison in his position as Chair, as he has emboldened committee to step up to the picket line, but also had the gumption and grit to hold Scottish Government to fiscal account, and bring them to the negotiating table. His desire and commitment is contagious, and I have seen a new energy and optimism even amongst some of the most cynical committee members. Jenny English and myself were once again nominated to sit on the SGPC Executive Team, and it has been an exciting ride these past 12 months, hopefully supporting our Chair, and certainly on behalf of Jenny, speaking honestly and eloquently for the profession.

Lothian LMC remains committed to representing every practice and every GP, from any branch of practice across Lothian. This responsibility is weighty, but one we accept with honour and commitment. Please know that the Office welcomes any practice or individual seeking advice or counsel and we will do what we can, where we can, to help.

Finally, it wouldn't be an AGM report from me if we didn't end with positivity. And what positive, genuine and REAL hope we have with this new funding. Funding that will hopefully resuscitate and stabilise General Practice – you; me; our hard working practice teams; and our patients and their care, that ultimately, we do all of this for. More staff; financial stability; working days that properly account for the rainbow of work we do, not just patient contacts; and maybe even electronic prescribing to boot. This is all promised and on the horizon. So on that note, we must all continue to look up, to push on, shoulder to shoulder, together, as there is much work to do, but so much to be gained. This is generational funding, and it promises to be golden.

Thank you.

Annie Lomas

Lothian LMC Medical Director

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