

8 Lings Lane

Wickersley

Rotherham.

S66 1JP

Mob: 07986 401764

Email: rotherhamlmc@hotmail.com

www.rotherhamlmc.org

Chairman: Dr A Cole. Secretary & Treasurer: Mr G Pacey.

Vice-Chairman: Dr C Myers. Medical Secretary: Dr N Thorman.

**LMCs - About Us**

Local Medical Committees (LMCs) have a long history in English law and pre-date the

National Health Service. The legal responsibility of LMCs is to represent and safeguard the

interests of all General Practitioners (GPs) in their area, ensure statutory consultation on

issues affecting general practice and provide advice and advocacy to GPs.

**LMCs are written into the Law**

The 1911 National Insurance Act allowed for the formation of Local Medical Committees,

giving GPs a statutory voice in representing general practitioners providing services under

the first state medical service for insured workers. The statutory status of LMCs has been reaffirmed in every major piece of NHS legislation.

When the NHS was created in 1946, LMCs were carried forward as the statutory

representative bodies for GPs, with the function to represent GPs in dealings with the new

NHS executive structures. The 1977 NHS Act further consolidated the roles of LMCs, and the 2006 NHS Act (Section 97) provided the modern legal framework, recognising Local Medical Committees as the only statutory representative bodies for GPs, and setting out their functions and funding. The 2022 Health and Care Act amendments shifted the statutory recognition of LMCs from NHS England’s national board to local Integrated Care Boards.

**The 2022 Health and Care Act and LMCs**

Prior to 2022, NHS England’s board had the statutory relationship with LMCs. The 2022

Health and Care Act amendments substituted “the Board” (NHS England) with “an integrated

care board” with the requirement for the statutory relationship to be held locally, at the

system level, giving LMCs the statutory right to consultation by ICBs on primary care

matters.

The amendments further modernised the terminology, clarifying the scope of representation

of Local Medical Committees to reflect all contract types relating to primary medical services

and enabled greater flexibility on geography of representation.

The funding mechanisms of LMCs through the ICB for expenses and support and through

the levy mechanism of whom the committee is representative remain unchanged.

**LMCs, ICBs and Health and Wellbeing Partnerships**

How the legal responsibilities of LMCs translate into practical realities with ICBs and Health

and Wellbeing Partnerships in England

The LMC has the statutory right to be consulted on new service specifications affecting

primary care. The LMC ensures the contract is realistic, funded adequately and protects GP

workload. Without LMC involvement, the ICB could be challenged for failing its statutory duty

of consultation.

Whilst Health and Wellbeing Partnerships set up by local authorities and ICBs are not

specifically mentioned in the LMC constitution, any primary care related policy they develop

must still involve LMC input because it affects GPs.

If a Health and Wellbeing board or partnership is developing a local strategy on prevention of

a disease area, the LMC provides the GP perspective on workload, patient pathways and

community integration. The LMC’s role is to protect GP interests in the design of system

plans.

**Representation vs delivery bodies**

LMCs (statutory) represent all GPs, defend contractual or professional interests and ensure

proper consultation.

GP Federations (non-statutory) act as provider organisations, bidding for or coordinating

delivery of services.

Both voices are valid but there may be practical tension - the federation might argue how it

will deliver a service and the LMC will argue whether the service is fair, viable and safe for

GPs to deliver. Both voices are valid but only the LMC has legal standing as the statutory

representative body.

Even if a federation is at a table as a provider, the LMC must still be consulted to safeguard

the profession’s interests. The statutory responsibility ensures GP’s collective voice is not

bypassed.

**Summary following the 2022 Health and Care Act amendments**

1. From national to local accountability - before 2022 NHS England had the statutory

relationship with LMCs. Now ICBs are the legal point of recognition and consultation.

This strengthens the LMC’s local statutory authority, as engagement must happen

locally, at the system level.

2. Stronger local voice - LMCs have a clear statutory right to consultation by ICBs and

Health and Wellbeing Partnerships on primary care matters. This gives LMCs a legal

position in system governance discussions

3. The amendments clarified representations and geographies for when LMC and ICB

geographies don’t fully align - LMCs can represent part or all of an ICB area.

4. LMCs provide statutory representation and protects GP interests. GP federations are

non-statutory and act as provider organisations. Both may sit at ICB tables, but only

the LMC has statutory consultation rights.

**References**

• Great Britain. (1911) *National Insurance Act 1911*. 1 & 2 Geo.5 c.55. London: HMSO.

Available at: https://sochealth.co.uk/national-health-service/health-law/nationalinsurance-

act-1911/ (Accessed: 23 September 2025).

• Great Britain. (1946) *National Health Service Act 1946*. 9 & 10 Geo.6 c.81. London:

HMSO.

• Great Britain. (1977) *National Health Service Act 1977*. 1977 c.49. London: HMSO.

• Great Britain. (2006) *National Health Service Act 2006*, Section 97. London: The

Stationery Office.

Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2006/41/section/97 (Accessed: 23

September 2025).

• Great Britain. (2022) *Health and Care Act 2022*, Schedule 3. London: The Stationery

Office. Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2022/31/schedule/3

(Accessed: 23 September 2025).

• NHS England. (2021) *Provider collaboratives: guidance*. NHS England. Available at:

https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/B0754-working-together-atscale-

guidance-on-provider-collaboratives.pdf (Accessed: 23 September 2025).

• British Medical Association. (n.d.) *Local medical committees (LMCs): the statutory*

*body for GPs*. BMA. Available at: https://www.bma.org.uk/advice-and-support/gppractices/

gp-practice-support/local-medical-committees-lmcs (Accessed: 23

September 2025).