



22 October 2024

Dear colleague,

My retirement as Chief Executive of Londonwide LMCs

It's been an absolute privilege to have led and championed GPs in London for over thirty years, and to have founded and shaped Londonwide LMCs since its creation in 2007 into the powerhouse that it is today.

As Chief Executive my role has been to serve London's GPs and general practice by defending and pushing the system to value the fundamental principles of whole person care that underpin what we and our practice teams do tirelessly every day; to help look after patients and their families.

Generations of people have understood that UK general practice is about relationships, and continuity of care over the long term for a registered list. The consultation is the irreducible essence of being an expert generalist. This is the core of what we do. Countries the world over have emulated us, and it grieves me that over the last two decades successive administrations have wittingly or unwittingly increasingly acted to fragment and even break it.

Yet we carry on because all of the evidence, our training and our experience tells us that general practice is the right way. Which is why I truly believe that GPs need Londonwide LMCs more than ever before and why the unique clinically led organisation that we have built over the last 18 years will continue to value, care for, and protect general practice in the capital.

And so it is with a great sense of honour that I have decided that this coming Spring will be the right time for me to do what most people who have been a GP since 1983 do and pass on the baton.

I could never have imagined when, with Dr Tony Stanton, we merged the Middlesex LMCs and Inner London LMCs consortia back in 2007 that we would weather the various storms that have beset us; be they Acts of Parliament, or global pandemics.

We have all been through so much together. I am immensely proud of the dedicated, passionate and professional team that I work with. Londonwide LMCs is the only organisation across our 27 boroughs that has solely GPs' interests at its heart and will always continue to do so.

Dr Michelle Drage MBBS FRCGP
CEO, Londonwide LMCs