A guide for our elected members

Dear elected member

The doctors involved in the Member voice and democratic structures project suggested that a comprehensive information pack for elected members would be a benefit both for new elected members, as well as those of you who have worked within the BMA for some time. So, we develop a guide in response to that and piloted it at the 2015 Annual Representative Meeting. Feedback on the guide was positive; we incorporated feedback received, and are now making it available to all elected members.

The guide contains overarching information about the BMA, which provides the contact for the work that we all do. In addition to the standard information relevant to all elected members, your pack is customised to include information about the specific committees that you serve on and the devolved nation or region that you work in. All of the information contained in the pack will also be available on our website at bma.org.uk/getinvolved.

Last year, we started work to translate our values into desirable behaviours to guide us when interacting with each other. This was done with input from many members across the UK, and also from staff, and will enhance our teamworking. You can find more information about our behaviour principles; Be professional, Be accountable, Be representative, Respect others and Be kind, in this guide.

We are also undertaking a project on bullying and harassment, and look forward to committees being involved with this work.

We will also be running the BMA valuing difference programme this session which explores how we can improve leadership by valuing difference and promoting inclusion, unconscious bias, and understand discrimination using an interactive and scenario-based approach. Elected members can also attend our BMA leadership programme (foundation or advanced level) to help support your development in a medico-political environment and help you learn how to lead committee meetings effectively, build self-belief and motivation and develop key skills. Sessions will be held for both programmes in London, Edinburgh, Belfast and Cardiff – dates were sent to all elected members in August.

If you would like any further information about either of these please get in touch with Yasemin Dil, head of corporate activity and EDI, ydil@bma.org.uk.

I hope that you find the pack useful — if you have any feedback or comments on how we can improve it, please don’t hesitate to get in touch with me.

Best wishes

Anthea Mowat
Representative body chair