

GPC UK Regional Elections

Barnsley / Doncaster / Rotherham / Sheffield Seat:

Personal Statement – Dr Clare Bannon

Sheffield
LMC



The BMA General Practitioners Committee (GPC) Seat for Barnsley, Doncaster, Rotherham and Sheffield is available for election. This is a bi-election following the resignation of Dr Dean Eggitt after several years representation. I have been fortunate to work with Dean over the last few years and would like to take this opportunity to thank him for all his hard work, on behalf of the region.

My name is Dr Clare Bannon and I strongly believe general practice is the foundation of the NHS, with over 90% of patient contacts occurring here. I am a GP in Barnsley, where I have been a partner for the last 11 years. I thoroughly enjoy the role and have always felt the best way to support and improve general practice is by becoming involved. Soon after qualifying as a GP I became involved in the formation of CCGs and was one of the founding members of Barnsley CCG. I was Governing Body member responsible for Women and Children's services, Patient and public engagement and I chaired the planned care programme board. This really helped me to understand the system, but I was frustrated by the control from NHSE and really wanted to do more to support Practices themselves.

I am a 6 session Partner at The Dove Valley Practice, a medium sized practice in Barnsley and, therefore, I fully understand the challenges we all face. I believe in the partnership model, and the importance of continuity of care for our patients, something I feel is often undervalued. I am constantly inspired by the ability of GPs to make improvements, drive change and work efficiently, but feel this is not reflected in the current level of investment. The PCN DES has brought significant changes in recent years, which could help general practice. However, there needs to be recognition that the ARRS scheme cannot work without sufficient funding, particularly around the training requirements of this group, and the development of practice premises for them to work in. I feel there has been too much focus on specifications for PCNs to implement rather than understanding the need for, and concentrating on, training and imbedding this new workforce into practices. There are also going to be challenges around the latest ICS restructure and what it means for the independent contractor status of GPs, as we continue to struggle with the devastating effects of the Coronavirus Pandemic.

I am a mum to 3 children, I came to Sheffield Medical School in 1998 and have now lived in Sheffield for over 20 years, my entire adult life. I feel I have a good understanding of our region and the similarities and differences across the area. I have been Barnsley LMC Medical Secretary for the past 3 years, and also sit on South Yorkshire LMC group. I have represented Barnsley at the UK and England conferences and GPs at South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw ICS Primary Care Steering Board. I have had the privilege of working with GPs in a wide variety of practices from different backgrounds across our region, and this enables me to really understand the needs of our profession across the region. As part of my roles I have had specific training in Leadership, Management, Media relations, Appraisal, and public speaking.

As GPC representative for our region, I offer you a strong South Yorkshire voice, against a London centric NHS. I aim to help general practice move forward by strengthening our profession, with proper investment and stability going forward. I am well placed to be the candidate to do this due to strong links across the entire region and personal experience as a grassroot GP. I have had many challenges through my CCG and LMC roles that have given me the knowledge, experience and skills needed to fight for you. My eldest child is keen to study medicine and become a GP in the future and I would love to have the opportunity to defend and improve general practice, not only for you, but for him and the next generation.

Thank you for your vote.