

The Lay Committee
**Interim
Strategic
Plan**



Preface



It is essential that anaesthetists, intensivists and specialists in pain medicine understand their patients' needs, expectations and worries, as well as what matters to them most in terms of their health and wellbeing. This is why the College set up its Lay Committee in 1998.

Our lay members support the work of the College in many ways. They ensure the patient and public voice is heard at every level in the College. Their work includes observing our exams, helping us develop curricula and patient information resources, reviewing research applications, assessing standards in anaesthetic departments with our clinicians and much more.

The Lay Committee has grown and developed over the years in tandem with the College and I am delighted to see the publication of this, its first strategic plan. This clearly demonstrates alignment with our strategic aims and in particular our commitment to putting patients at the heart of everything we do.

Professor Ravi Mahajan
President, Royal College of Anaesthetists

Foreword



This is the first strategic plan produced by the College's Lay Committee. The plan sets out our purpose, vision and values as well as our priorities.

We live in strange, uncertain times and we do not know what the future holds. However, we can be certain that clinicians in anaesthesia, intensive care and pain medicine will deploy all their expertise and experience to provide safe, high quality healthcare for patients who need their support whatever the circumstances.

Our strategic plan sets out how we will develop our role and the way we work to maximise our potential to support the College in its strategic aims. We will do this primarily by ensuring the voices of patients and the public are at the heart of all College activities.

The three strands of this strategic plan set out a clear direction for us. Our priorities are developing our influence and improving our communication and ways of working. We aim to continue to grow and develop into an effective and efficient team which has presence within the College and reaches out into the wider community.

Carol Pellowe
Chair, The Lay Committee

Pauline Elliott
Chair Designate, The Lay Committee

February 2021

Our purpose and vision

We are volunteers who support, advise and influence the College to continually improve patients' experience of anaesthesia and perioperative care.

Link with the College's Strategic Plan

We represent patients and the public across the College. Strand three of the College's Strategic Plan 2018–2021 refers to our role. This interim strategic plan sets a clear direction for our future work. We will formulate a workplan and track our performance against our aims. We will contribute to the development of the College's new strategic plan (for three to five years from 2022), adjusting and finalising our plan to ensure we remain aligned with the College's vision and aims.

Our values

We share the College values and interpret them in our own context.

Expert	We are committed to supporting the College as it strives for excellence and develops expert clinicians.
Positive	We are constructive, collaborative and proactive.
Inclusive	We believe we should use our influence on behalf of all groups in our community. We value diversity and deplore discrimination.
Forward-thinking	We seek out and embrace opportunities to innovate and improve.
Ambitious	We believe the voices of patients and the public should be heard throughout the College.

The three strands of our strategic plan

1 Developing a stronger, more influential and representative voice

Vision

We are known and respected throughout the College as a team of lay people whose focus is firmly on ensuring the College puts safety and the interests of patients and the public at the centre of all its activities.

Aims

To develop the power of our own voice to ensure we influence every level of the College's work.

To play a significant role in the development of the new College strategy, influencing both direction and approach and advocating a focus on patient involvement.

To improve the breadth and depth of our influence by building a more diverse Lay Committee and championing equality, diversity and inclusion in everything we do and say.

2 Improving our communication and engagement internally and externally

Vision

We communicate effectively within our team and with the wider College as well as reaching out to engage with patients and the public.

Aims

To find and utilise ways of improving communication between ourselves and with people at the College, including Council, members and staff.

To explore ways of extending our reach beyond the College so that we can:

- a** be advocates for the College;
- b** promote understanding of the role of anaesthetists in health care; and
- c** improve our own understanding of patients' and the public's views and priorities.

3 Maximising our contribution by developing effective ways of working

Vision

We work in ways that derive the most value from our volunteer resource and ensure we realise our potential to support the College in achieving its strategic objectives.

Aims

To improve the ways we work so that we operate as a supportive, effective and efficient team whose members enjoy and value their role with the College.

To develop into an influential team which uses a variety of approaches to ensure the College hears patients' and the public's voices and makes those voices central to all its activities.

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February 2021