



## The **Cameron Fund**

*The GPs' own charity*

29th May 2015

Dear Colleague,

I am writing after the LMCs' Conference, at which the AGM of the Cameron Fund was held. In my very brief report I spoke of our grateful thanks to all LMCs and individual donors for their financial support enabling us to distribute about £320k to 191 beneficiaries in 2014 – many of them referred to us by LMCs. We are indeed grateful, both for your financial support and for referring GP colleagues to us who we may have been able to help.

I also drew the attention of Conference to our Trustees' Report, which shows our income last year from LMC donations under two headings: General Donations of £57,148 and Charity Levies of £53,643. The Charity Levy route is used by just 4 LMCs but generates almost as much income to the Cameron Fund as the generous donations of all the other 84 LMCs. So I would urge you to consider whether your LMC can help us by setting up a Charity Levy. This is an entirely voluntary arrangement whereby practices agree to a levy deduction at source, which is then passed via the LMC to the Cameron Fund by your Payment Authority. Wessex LMCs have set the levy at 3p per patient, which for an average list size amounts to about £54 per GP, but as it is deducted at source it is outside taxable profits so the actual cost is £36. There is no reason why a practice could not opt for a lower (or higher!) deduction! We can help LMCs in setting up such a system, offering template letters for you to recommend this to your practices, and draft letters for practices to send to the Payment Authority. It does however need the cooperation of their finance department, which needs to be negotiated, but you can inform them that as this is a charity levy so far no Payment Authority has charged for setting up this service. In our experience about half of practices are willing, with suitably encouraging letters from their LMCs, to sign up to the scheme.

However a simpler alternative was suggested to me by an LMC officer at the Conference. He suggested that when you set your Statutory Levy next time, you could give practices the option of adding a small charity levy to their statutory levy, which would remove the need for a separate levy arrangement with the finance department of the Payment Organisation. So you could inform practices that the Statutory Levy was rising, for example, to 24p per patient with an optional additional 1p to be remitted via the LMC to the Cameron Fund. This could be as an opt-out or opt-in arrangement as you prefer. Such an additional 1p per patient would cost each GP (after tax), on average list size, £12 per annum, but would make a substantial difference to funds available to the Cameron Fund. And of course once this was in place there would be no need for the LMC to make your current generous donations out of your Levy funds.

I am aware that many LMCs already use their funds generously to help colleagues locally who are in need. But please consider this suggestion carefully. The generous response of LMC Representatives to the dinner collection shows the high regard of GPs for the work of the Cameron Fund. None of us know when we ourselves might need such assistance for unexpected life-changing and uninsurable events, as many of our beneficiaries will testify. There are some examples of GP colleagues who have been helped in his way on our website:

<http://www.cameronfund.org.uk/content/how-we-have-helped>

If you would like more information or to discuss this further, or indeed for a trustee to visit one of your LMC meetings please do contact me via our Chief Executive, David Harris.

Best wishes – and many thanks once again for your generous support!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stephen Linton', with a horizontal line underneath.

Dr Stephen Linton  
Chairman of Trustees