



The Cameron Fund
The GPs' own charity



LMC Conference Dinner 18 May 2017 - Cameron Fund Chairman's Speech

The Cameron Fund is the one Medical Charity that helps only GPs and not other members of the profession. We also support dependents of GPs and retired GPs, GPs undergoing retraining or on a phased return to work, and GP trainees. We offer financial help to your colleagues in real financial need, which can arise totally unexpectedly. This year we have helped the spouse and young children, of a GP trainee who was killed in a car crash; a young GP and his family affected by a very severe physical illness such that he was unable to work for many months; a number of doctors off work with mental health problems; and some colleagues who have run into trouble with the GMC.

Those are not events we can anticipate, or necessarily insure against. I sometimes think, as I read an application, that 'there but for the grace of God go I'.

So in 2016 the Cameron Fund gave financial help amounting to £375k to 226 beneficiaries, 30 more than in 2015. More than half of our income comes from our investments set up by Sir James Cameron after whom we are named. But the rest needs to come from donations, from you the LMCs and from individual donors. Many LMCs contribute substantial sums to the Fund. In total 49 LMCs make contributions, but 35 LMCs currently give us nothing. If your LMC is one of those please can you reconsider!

The best way of all to help us is to set up a voluntary levy, and Wessex LMCs are a shining example of that, with many practices signing up to a 3p per patient levy that brings in about £35k for the Fund - by far the largest donation, and several other LMCs have followed their example. We can help you set this up if you would consider doing so, and practices can set the levy rate at whatever level they wish.

The Cameron Fund is here to help your colleagues in real difficulties. One day it could be you or your family, as none of us can be sure that we will avoid a disastrous event such as some of our beneficiaries have faced.

We are, as our strap line says, the GPs' own Charity, set up by the conference of LMCs in 1970. So I would like to ask you to put this on your next LMC Agenda to consider what you can do to help us to support your colleagues in real financial need. Thank you for your support in the past. With the increasing stress of General Practice we are seeing more young doctors who need the help of the Cameron Fund. So in 2017 we need your support more than ever.

Dr Stephen Linton
Chairman, the Cameron Fund