

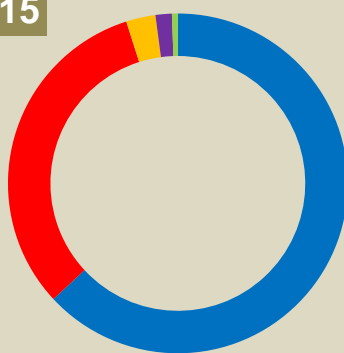


## Our Member Newsletter – Spring 2016

Welcome to our latest newsletter for Members, with whom we are in email contact. Once again, we can give you a preview of the Fund's Report & Accounts for the previous year. In 2015, our charitable activities totalled £322,000. The Fund's Council of Management considered 139 new applications, while providing support to 84 existing beneficiaries. We continue to offer Money Advice assessments to many applicants, which provided further benefit to the value of £137,000.

### CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES 2015

- Grants (£203,000)
- Loans (£103,000)
- Money Advice (£9,000)
- LMC Masterclasses (£5,000)
- Career Coaching (£1,800)



Unfortunately, we saw a sharp drop in donations last year and this has led to a deficit of income over expenditure for the first time in many years. We are hoping for increased support this year and ask you to play your part, by telling others about our work and encouraging them to become a Member and donate regularly to the Fund.

### Reducing the burden on GPs

Last year 81% of applicants were GPs of working age. More and more the Fund is being asked to help those: who can't work because of illness; who are in difficulty following NHS or GMC action; who are in the process of returning to General Practice; or those who may have a limited capacity to work. All our beneficiaries are struggling with financial crisis, and many are coping with mental ill-health too. Work issues, family breakup, illness, addiction, can all lead to stress-related illness, but their mental health problems are likely to be exacerbated by a worsening financial situation.

Many GPs find it hard to admit to experiencing stress-related symptoms for fear of discrimination. Thankfully, there seems to be greater notice being taken of the heavy burden placed on GPs, and the effect on their mental and physical well-being. The Cameron Fund aims to help GPs and their dependents reach a better financial position and relieve worry by giving temporary support and providing recommendations to try and improve their situation. We also help a number of beneficiaries with the costs of returning to work, and often continue support while they make a phased return. If you know anyone who is struggling please signpost them to us.

### Barriers in returning to work

We have seen regularly occurring obstacles that make the process of returning to work much harder and take much longer than it may need – resulting in added stress to our applicants.

In 2015 we helped two GPs who had returned to the UK. It has taken one of them a whole year to return to clinical work while unnecessarily delayed procedures were completed. During this time, he had no income except the I&R Bursary for the final two months. Both GPs were supported with a short-term grant to help with household expenses until they received their first salary.

Commercial indemnity insurance premiums for Returners is another issue. A number of beneficiaries have found that they cannot obtain cover from the 'mutuals' and are not covered by Crown Indemnity, as are some other medical staff. Late last year our Chairman wrote to the GPC to highlight this problem and we are hopeful that their dialogue with the NHS and medical insurers will lead to changes.



**Case report:** *After nearly four years out of clinical work, Dr E was cleared to return to unrestricted practice by the GMC. He had passed the required returner exams and has been offered a six-month placement under the I&R Scheme. He needs to have £10 million indemnity cover in place before he can be provided with a Performer Number, which he needs for acceptance on the scheme. He has been quoted just over £20,000, paid as instalments, for 12 months' cover. Dr E has asked the Cameron Fund to consider helping him with a loan.*

### Working in partnership with other medical organisations



Royal College of  
General Practitioners

In October RCGP Revalidation & Quality Programmes Manager, Mat Lawson, and Assistance Director of RCGP Development, Clair Angus, attended a second meeting with The Cameron Fund to discuss working in partnership on their Doctor' Support Programme. It is expected that a pilot programme – a series of one day events for GPs to learn about the support that is available – will commence in April or May 2015.



Londonwide LMCs  
The professional voice of London general practice

From September to December 2015 PHP and Londonwide LMCs held a series of four 'Reflective Practice Masterclasses' with each event comprising four workshops; Behavioural Change; Reflection; Mindfulness and Organisational Change. Feedback saw 62% of attendees rating the workshops 'Excellent or Good'. Twenty GPs, identified as needing greater support, have been invited to attend six further sessions covering specific issues originally highlighted. The Cameron Fund has sponsored these free, follow-up sessions. *If your LMC may be interested in holding similar workshops please email [mary@cameronfund.org.uk](mailto:mary@cameronfund.org.uk)*

### BMA Law

Starting in January, the Cameron Fund has been able to signpost to a pilot scheme offered by BMA Law. GPs, GP Partners and Practice Managers who were in need of legal advice on professional issues of concern were invited to book a FREE half-hour phone session with a specialist solicitor. The main area for which advice was sought related to partnership difficulties. BMA Law provided these sessions for the Cameron Fund without charge and we hope their assistance will help to prevent problems that could involve the need for financial support at a later date. Those who we refer are informed that any follow-up time will be charged, but the initial feedback is that this advice has been extremely useful.

### Increasing donations with Gift Aid

We were able to claim back a total of £2,516 through the Gift Aid scheme which boosted our reduced donation income. If you currently give a donation but have not signed up to Gift Aid, or you would like to help support the Fund's work with a regular gift, please email [mary@cameronfund.org.uk](mailto:mary@cameronfund.org.uk) for a Gift Aid Declaration and Donation form.

### Helping us save costs

We are encouraging all Members to receive our correspondence by email, to save on costs and time. The recent mailing of the consultation relating to the Memorandum & Articles cost £600 in stationery, printing and postage. If you know any Members who still receive correspondence by post please ask them to inform us that they will accept correspondence by email in the future.

### Should the Cameron Fund be named the Cameron Fund?

We are aware that our name does not explain who we are and what we do. Many younger members of the profession do not know of Sir James Cameron and the name of the current Prime Minister has made this an even greater problem. Do you think we should change our name? Perhaps to 'The GPs' own charity'. Let us know.