



Our newsletter for LMCs – Spring 2018

A note from the Treasurer:

"I'm pleased to announce that we have now finalised the 2017 Annual Trustees Report and Financial Statements and I can share some figures with you.

Total income for the year was £465,128, which was higher than 2016. The invested Fund – which accounts for about half of our income – performed well, despite a rather unsteady world economy. All other income comes from LMCs and individuals. Following a large deficit of income over expenditure in 2016, we would like to thank you for all your donations in 2017. Last year we were also grateful to receive a couple of unexpected legacies and a large bequest which has taken more than eight years to process! However, we can't depend on receiving this kind of donation, so please will you continue to support the Fund's vital work?

In 2017 we received applications from 198 individuals (up from 140 in 2016) however, the Fund's overall expenditure was down by over £40,000 compared to 2016. While we strive to keep running costs to a minimum, this decrease actually indicates that we gave less out in grants and loans compared to previous year (£244,600 in 2017 and £356,344 in 2016). This was not a case of the Trustees being prudent. In our Council Meetings new applications, renewals and any further requests are considered by all the Trustees in attendance. Everyone's situation is unique and each application is given careful consideration, with the level of support based on an applicant's financial position at that time".



This year we would like to be much more generous!

If you are stressed about financial matters and are in genuine financial need, please don't hesitate to get in touch – or encourage a colleague who might be struggling to give us a call.

Dr Ian Winterton has been a Trustee of the Fund since 2010 and Treasurer since November 2017

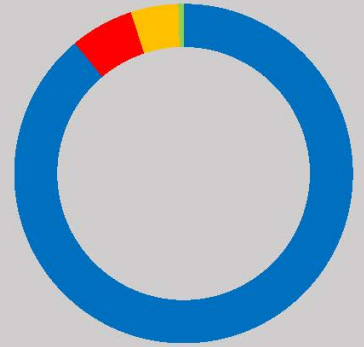
"This is [what] I looked forward to writing when I returned to work as a GP... your organisation did what others could not do... to give hope and support in a time of need... [I] would not have been able to go on and complete this journey without you."

For health reasons, Dr Parker* had not been able to work as a GP for two and a half years prior to his application to the Fund. He and his wife, who was also too ill to work, were dependent on state benefits. He was also struggling to contribute towards the care of his two daughters and his step-daughter. The Fund supported Dr Parker with a monthly grant towards the family's essential expenditure and any back-to-work costs over a further period of fifteen months, until he was finally able return to a salaried GP role.

*name has been change to protect identity

CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES 2017

- Grants (£199,790)
- Loans (£13,600)
- Money Advice (£10,180)
- Career Coaching (£1,030)



Update on the Joint Medical Charities Portal

It's almost a year since the 'Help me, I'm a Doctor' site was launched – as a single point of access for any doctor searching for financial support. The site also holds a great resource, signposting to other specific services available for doctors. We are also looking to add listings relating to nationwide support organisations such as *Entitled To*, the state benefits helpline, and Alcoholics Anonymous.

You could help make more doctors aware of the Portal by adding a 'Help me, I'm a Doctor' badge to your email signature or website; follow or retweet details of the site via social media. Using keywords and phrases such as 'financial help for doctors' when mentioning the site, will also help boost the Portal's ranking on search engines.



www.doctorshelp.org.uk

We are working with the GP Health Service to improve GPs' Mental Health

Since its launch in February last year more than 1,000 GPs have sought help from the GP Health Service, headed up by PHP – that's around three doctors a day. These numbers illustrate just how many GPs may have been suffering in silence. The service offers professional help to those struggling with stress, anxiety, depression, addiction problems and conditions such as bi-polar disorder.

Some of these GPs have been referred to the Cameron Fund, as they are struggling at work, which in turn affects their earning capacity and financial worries can have a serious impact on mental health.

LMC Conference 2018 – once again, we're pleased you could support us!

Our biggest single cash collection of the year would normally be held at the annual LMC Conference Dinner. We were originally concerned that this year, on hearing that the event had been scaled back to a single day, that we might lose out on this valuable source of income, but thankfully the Dinner went ahead on 8 March. About one hundred less people attended than 2017, but we'd like to thank all those that did enclose a donation in the envelopes we provided – we raised £4,047, about £1,000 less than 2017.

Also, thank you to those who joined us for our Afternoon Tea event, sponsored by LMC Law, which was held before the Conference Dinner. This was great chance to chat to some of you and we hope to repeat this event, with more tea and more cake, next year.



The Benefits of our Money Advice

On receipt of each new application, and having looked at the financial figures supplied, we often offer a Money Advice assessment with our Money Advisor, Jeff Brown. He works with the referred applicants and recommends ways to reduce their expenditure, maximise any income they have, and also suggests any relevant state benefits, rescheduling of repayments to non-priority creditors and how to access debt management services if required. Sometimes a Money Advice assessment is the only support an applicant receives, but we believe this can be a crucial way to help improve an applicant's situation. Last year we allocated £10,000 to this service. We estimate that this Money Advice, together with the notional interest on loans, was worth a total of over £100,000 to both new applicants and existing beneficiaries (rising from £70,000 in 2016).

A Message from our Chairman, Dr Gary Calver

"We are sad to announce that our Chief Executive, David Harris, will be leaving us shortly. He joined the Fund in November 2006 and on behalf of all Trustees, I'd like to thank him for all that he has done over the past decade. He has steered the Fund from what I understand was a difficult position to an organisation that is very well run, much more than solvent and with good reputation and we'd like to give him our best wishes for the future, especially for his commitment and hard work in forwarding the aims of the Fund".

Adrian Mumford will be joining the Fund as our new Chief Executive from 18 April. Until recently Adrian has been CEO and Diocesan Secretary at The Diocese of Europe and brings with him thirty years of professional experience, which combines hands-on administration and high level management.