

My name is Dr Robert Newton

I have been providing GP locum relief to the practices at Triabunna, Swansea , Bicheno , St Marys and Ouse over the past 8 years .

It has become clear that each of the GP services mentioned above are in need of at least one extra permanent partner . That need has become more urgent over the past year as practitioners are leaving the practices with no replacements being arranged.

Those left to maintain responsible medical services are expressing concern to me that they fear “ professional burn out” and inability to be enthusiastic for the work.

A series of locum services to these rural practices is necessary at least in the initial stages of solving the problem. It is possible that some of them might find that a more permanent presence in the practices becomes attractive.

The reasons for GP's not wanting to establish themselves in rural communities are several. Any partner they may have might find that living in such a community unattractive . The distance from a tertiary medical hospital might be a daunting prospect as some medical conditions need urgent , immediate attention which can be stressful when are on your own and lacking confidence.

Life in urban practices has the attraction of time off, other practitioners the share the work load , as well the social outlets available

Dr John Saul and I have discussed the problem regularly over the past year. He has developed the concept of establishing a group of GP's prepared to form a supply line of locum services at least as an initial solution. The services would probably need some form of financial underwriting from the d.h.h.s

I believe that many of the issues listed in the terms of reference for the committee would flow on from the maintainance of reliable enthusiastic GP's living in those rural communities.

Everything depends on medical practitioners being there.

Yours Sincerely

Dr Robert Newton

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Sent from my iPhone