



## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

**Best wishes to all from DDHF; we hope you have a wonderful Christmas and New Year.**

2016 marks the two year anniversary of DDHF as an organisation delivering primary care services in the Durham Dales. Over the past year, we have continued to deliver high quality care to the most vulnerable patients in the area, while also developing mental health, diabetic and health improvement provision.

We continue to provide a 7 day service, helping people receive care in their preferred place and allowing them to access a broader range of health care specialities.

Our federation is working in ever closer partnership with our member practices and a broad range of other providers to support primary care in our area.

We are grateful for the support we have had from our member practices as we have continued our development. Also, a huge 'thank you' to our entire team without whom none of our activities would be possible.

Wishing you a happy and healthy holiday!

**David Robertson**  
Chairman



## NEW TEAM MEMBERS



**CAROLINE SMITH QN**  
Advanced Nurse  
Practitioner

Hi, I'm Caz Smith (ANP), I joined the team at the end of October 2016, everyone has been really lovely and helpful. Prior to joining the team, I have managed a Nursing Home and YPO in Sunderland. Previously, I was a Community Matron for the Durham Dales treating residents in community hospitals and in their own homes with long term conditions. It is fabulous working back in the patch with lots of new and old colleagues.



**MELANIE ASTON**  
Pharmacist

I have been qualified as a Pharmacist now for 18 years. During this time I have worked in Community Pharmacy and more recently in Primary Care as part of the NECS Medicines Optimisation team in South Tees where my time was split between the Practice Workplan and Care Home Medication Reviews. As part of my role within DDHF I have, for now, been focusing on medication waste within care homes across the area. After each visit the home is provided with a copy of my audit and a breakdown of the cost of the medication that had been disposed of in the previous three months. Once all homes have been visited the figures obtained will be used to help prioritise where to begin the medication reviews.

## SPOTLIGHT ON



**DAVID LITTLE**  
Health Care Coordinator

David joined us in September and has fitted in to his new role well. He has a wide range of skills which include Health improvement, clinical and diabetes and obesity specialist.

David has joined us from Darlington Council where he was their coordinator for the health improvement specialist team, his job there would include tackling issues such as obesity, CHD, diabetes, mental health and a wide range of physical disabilities.

Previous to this, David worked for the NHS Wellbeing 4 Life team and Check 4 Life where he was their targeted Health Trainer and wellbeing development. His aims were to build up people's capacity to be independent, resilient and maintain good health.

Outside of work, David enjoys DJing, which he has done for the last four years.



## PRACTICE ALIGNED MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE

The practice aligned mental health service has expanded. We have two further members of staff taking the team to a total of four, with another member of staff joining us in December. The team consists of three nurses and two mental health social workers. Two members of staff hold a non medical prescribing qualification which allows for streamless assessment and treatment.

The team now have set clinics at each practice allowing more of a presence within

each area and are available for staff to drop in to discuss patient cases.

Although the workload has increased we have plenty of scope to meet the needs of the patients and currently patients are seen within 14 days of been referred.

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**Emma Hemingbrough**  
Advanced Nurse Practitioner

## TRAINING UPDATE

DDHF training sessions over the coming months will include:

### **Thursday 15th December**

There will be no DDHF training offered in December.

### **Wednesday 18th January 2017**

Safeguarding Children, Levels 1, 2 and 3. Redworth Hall Hotel, Redworth. Open to all staff.

### **Wednesday 15th February 2017**

Chaperone Training and Sexual Health. Open to Admin and HCAs.

### **Thursday 23rd March 2017**

No DDHF training offered. Collaborative Time Out.

We continue to run CPR, AED and Anaphylaxis training sessions as requested. If you are interested in either booking a session or have a single member of your team requiring training please contact [joannepatch@nhs.net](mailto:joannepatch@nhs.net)

Training through 2016 has been well received by those attending the various sessions and feedback has been extremely positive. If you have training topics that you would like to put forward for 2017 please let us know.

### **Comments include:**

- *Very clear, concise, always checked understanding. Best CPR/anaphylaxis training I have had in ages.*
- *Very informative, easy to understand, knowledgeable.*
- *Brilliant trainer very interesting and kept the whole group involved at all times.*

**DDHF looks forward to seeing you at training in 2017!**

## PRACTICE SUPPORT

We welcome requests from our practices for staff support and will accommodate these requests, where possible.

If you have any requests, please contact Joanne, [joanne.taylor@nhs.net](mailto:joanne.taylor@nhs.net)

## VISION

To be a federation of GP medical practices working together to provide high quality cost effective primary healthcare services.

## MISSION

To ensure, maintain and develop the provision of General Practice in the rural and urban communities of Durham Dales.

## VALUES

- Equity of provision
- Supportive, caring and inclusive
- Performance oriented
- Proactive

## VACANCIES

Our team is constantly expanding and we welcome interest from motivated clinicians to join us.

Send your CV to [team@ddhf.co.uk](mailto:team@ddhf.co.uk)

Station View Medical Centre, 29A Escomb Road  
Bishop Auckland, Co. Durham, DL14 6AB

01388 665 910  
[www.ddhf.co.uk](http://www.ddhf.co.uk)

