

The medium to long term provision of GP services within the Brown Clee Medical Practice area is currently uncertain. Dr Railton has announced her intention to retire from the partnership at the end of 2023 and Dr. Bassett by the end of 2027. There is a known shortage of GP's wishing to locate to rural communities therefore recruitment to our area to replace them is expected to be difficult. It was proposed by the Partners that a community led buy-out of the premises, removing the need for new partners to buy into the equity, might assist in attracting GP's to the Practice.

To advance this idea, an unincorporated community group has been formed comprising patients of the Practice. A Committee has been established from members of this group and a constitution adopted. The purpose of the Group is as follows:

1. To support the ongoing provision of the Brown Clee Medical Practice (BCMP).
2. To assess the feasibility, and support the acquisition of, the surgery buildings currently owned by the Brown Clee Medical Practice in Stottesden and Ditton Priors by the community and individuals served by the Practice.
3. To work with the BCMP Partners and Medical Practice, Patient Participation Group (PPG), the NHS and associated bodies and other community groups in support of this purpose.

The Group is currently looking at all available options to purchase the Practice premises through community led projects. These may include obtaining grants, community funding, fundraising, loans, and private investments alongside which various legal structures are being considered. More detailed information will be made available to the community as the situation progresses.

The Group is seen as a short-term organisation formed to explore the possible options in detail, and it would then be superseded by an incorporated organisation, whether community or privately owned, that would be established in a suitable form to own and manage things in the preferred way for the longer term.

Membership of the Brown Clee Medical Practice Community Group is open to anyone over the age of 18 who is a patient of the BCM Practice. Members may be asked to assist the Committee in accordance with their skills and knowledge and present information to the Committee as and when it is relevant. Members can request attendance at a committee meeting where there will be an opportunity to speak. However the Committee will necessarily attend to the business at hand and will not be able to accept Members participation in the formal section of the meeting. All information is to be kept strictly confidential and must not be freely distributed. Only the Committee is authorised to disseminate information. Anyone wishing to become a Member should email bcmpcommunitygroup@btinternet.com