**Re: Support to LMC Constituents**

Dear Colleagues

Bro Taf LMC is the statutory representative body for GPs in Cwm Taf Morgannwg, Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan.

In response to a report on Wales Online/Wales on Sunday we feel that comment must be made to support our constituents.

Like all aspects of society, General Practice had to radically change to meet the needs of patients in the context of a global pandemic and local exponential growth of Covid-19. In partnership with patients the pandemic has necessitated a shift to remote assessment using telephone, video and electronic consulting methods. Face-to-face appointments had to be reserved for cases where it was absolutely necessary to protect patients, staff within GP surgeries and ultimately primary care which is the cornerstone of the NHS in Wales.

Suggestions that workload has dried up are not what we have experienced in General Practice. Teams have had to respond to high levels of staff absence due to Covid-19 cases and self-isolation policies. Staff across primary care have been flexible to ensure that services for patients have been protected including practices opening voluntarily on bank holidays to support the out of hours services.

It is true that the pandemic has necessitated cessation of routine services, which will now be reintroduced when risk assessments determine that it is safe to do so. These services cannot be provided in the way they were previously because we are still in a pandemic.

Any suggestion of pursuing herd immunity sacrifices the lives of the most vulnerable in our society, and we would like to reassure the public that the view reported by the GP is not representative of the view of the profession.

It would not be correct for us to comment on education and public health policy, and we believe Welsh Government is best placed to determine what steps are appropriate as lockdown eases.

**LMC Executive Team**

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