

## **Response from Blackburn with Darwen Primary Care Trust**

**22 June 2009**

Dear Sir,

Just a quick view. I am a GP, PEC Chair and Practice Based Commissioner. It is vital that consultants be allowed to work in the community to improve access to secondary care services, up-skill primary care, reduce dependence on hospitals and to improve efficiency/reduce costs. Ideally we should be able to use local consultants but there are barriers being put in place eg our local consultants have to apply in writing before they discuss service developments with GPs or indeed other providers, in case they lose business! Clearly integration is likely to suffer! There ought to be a mature discussion between commissioners and providers to ensure any new service does not destabilise existing services (system management), however due to the financial situation, we need to develop integrated services, closer to home, which are of high quality and value for money. For me this means closer working between primary and secondary care,

Dr Malcolm Ridgway PEC  
Chair and Medical Director  
NHS Blackburn with Darwen (PCT)