

# UPDATE: Slaidburn Country Practice to continue to serve Slaidburn and many other rural villages

Written on 03 September 2019.

NHS East Lancashire CCG is delighted to announce that we have appointed a new GP service provider for the Slaidburn Country Practice for a period of 2 years.

Following a comprehensive and rigorous procurement process, the CCG has invited Bowland Health Ltd to provide the GP service at Slaidburn Country Practice. The Medical Director of Bowland Health Ltd is Dr Amy Bonner and we are delighted that she has accepted.

Dr Bonner has over 9 years of experience in general practice and has worked as a locum in Slaidburn and Clitheroe. Dr Bonner, who lives near to the Practice, knows the area very well and has a good understanding of the health needs of local people. Her clinical interests include lifestyle medicine, and health promotion, and she is passionate about helping people to live healthily and well.

Dr Bonner said: “I am delighted and honoured to be given the opportunity to run Slaidburn Country Practice and continue working with this fantastic group of staff and patients. Being local to the area, I appreciate the vital nature of a reliable primary care service in this rural setting. At Bowland Health we hope to build on the existing surgery and achieve sustainable healthcare for the local people into the future”.

The procurement process, run by NHS East Lancashire is a tried and tested way of inviting bids to provide GP services. As part of the process, a panel of experts, including a patient representative from the Slaidburn Country Practice, were asked to review and consider the bids and recommend a preferred GP provider.

The patient representative, Mike Fairbairn Chair of Slaidburn Country Practice Patient Participation Group said: “I was pleased to be involved in the procurement evaluation run by the CCG. It is important that the voice of the patient is heard, particularly in the case of Slaidburn Practice where people are extremely concerned about the potential loss of the service. The CCG has tried hard to get the best possible GP service for Slaidburn and

surrounding areas. As a result of this I am optimistic for the future of Slaidburn Country Practice and look forward to supporting Dr Bonner in her leadership of the practice as well as working towards a long-term solution for maintaining the Practice as an integral part of our rural communities.”

Dr Mark Dziobon, Burnley GP and Medical Director at East Lancashire CCG said: “GPs and GP services are the very foundation of the NHS. Ninety percent of the contact people have with the NHS is through their GP.

Unfortunately we have seen GP services struggling in other parts of East Lancashire and elsewhere and the CCG is doing its utmost to ensure that patients receive high quality GP services, along with support for GPs too. I am therefore delighted with the appointment of Dr Amy Bonner to run the Slaidburn Country Practice, and I am looking forward to working with her in due course.”

There will be a period of transition and hand over from the existing GP provider, to the new GP service and the handover will prioritise continuity for the patients. For patients registered with Slaidburn Country Practice service will run as usual and there is no need to do anything other than use the practice as they always have done.