

Food Banks

We are aware that in Dundee Food Banks have a section of their website / literature that states:

“Care professionals such as doctors, health visitors, benefits advisors, homelessness workers, social workers, CAB and police identify people in crisis and contact Dundee Foodbank to arrange a referral for a food parcel”

The BMA met with the Under Secretary of State last week and made clear their view, which is that the only role the GP might have in this is a signposting role, i.e. putting up posters or having leaflets in the surgery.

We are aware that some Practices in Tayside keep a supply of stamped forms/ vouchers at Reception and keep a note of the patients they have given them to.

The LMC very much support the BMA view of the GP role in this issue.

Parking while “on call”

We have recently been made aware that in Dundee they **do not** recognise “Doctor on Call” signs in windscreens and this will not give you an exemption if you are fined for parking on yellow lines whilst attending a house or emergency call.

On investigating this the advice we have been given for the 3 Council areas is below.

Angus: *There are currently no Traffic Wardens in Angus and it would be at the discretion of the Police if you were ticketed or not. We would advise to place a “Doctor on Call” sign in your windscreen. This situation may change in the future if the Council decides to re-employ Traffic Wardens.*

Dundee: *When out on a house call/ emergency call the GP should call 01382 432095 if they are unable to park at a patients house and have to park on Yellow Lines. The person they speak to will then contact the Traffic Wardens and make them aware of this so a ticket should not be issued.*

Perth & Kinross: *All GPs can apply for and have been issued with permits which allows them to “park freely while in the course of their duties” without being ticketed.*

Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT) telephone service

We are aware of the difficulty all practices in Tayside are having in relation to access to timely counselling and psychology services especially for patients who are in more routine need of help. Many of us already signpost patients to ‘Moodjuice’ as part of our options but we would highlight a further service available that is likely to be of interest.

Living Life is a free telephone service available to anyone over the age of 16 who is suffering from low mood, mild to moderate depression and/or anxiety.

You can access Living Life either by:

- GP referral
- Phoning our free, confidential phone line on 0800 328 9655 (Mon-Fri 1pm to 9pm). You will be asked to provide some details and then an assessment appointment will be arranged to discuss the service and how help can be provided to you.

There are also a couple of useful self-help leaflets available from the webpage.

Further information on this service can be found at <http://www.nhs24.com/usefulresources/livinglife/>

Cervical Smear Training

We are aware that a few Practices have been in touch to highlight the fact that this training, which should be held locally every 2 years, had not yet been organised.

We are grateful to Dr Watts for confirming that training is being planned for the forthcoming PLT date on 18th March 2015.

Practices should receive further details about this in the New Year.

Tayside Substance Misuse Service

We wanted to remind practices that Tayside Substance Misuse Service are keen to hear from you if any patients who are on Methadone seem to be intoxicated when attending the surgery at all i.e. slurred speech, drowsy, unsteady on feet, etc.