

HM Prison Service

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www.hmprisonservice.gov.uk



Mr David Streeton
Chief Buyer
Herts PCTs

Your reference

Our reference

Date

26 September 2007

Dear Mr Streeton

Re: Dr. Gerald Bulger

I write regarding the above in relation to the general practice bid at HMP The Mount. Dr. Bulger has requested a reference in relation to his practice here at HMP Wandsworth, which I of course am happy to provide.

Dr. Bulger has worked here on a locum basis since October 2006 and more recently was appointed by our healthcare provider Secure Healthcare as a General Practitioner.

We have always found him to be energetic and diligent in his work and is generally regarded as having significant clinical ability, communicates effectively and works well with others. He is highly regarded by both health care colleagues and the wider prison staff

As stated above he is now a permanent member of the Secure Healthcare doctor team and his appointment is a reflection of their confidence in both his clinical experience and ability, particularly in relation to the delivery of general medical care within the security constraints of a prison setting.

I therefore have no hesitation in recommending him to you.

Yours sincerely

Ian Mulholland
Governor

Cc Eamon Toman - Head of Healthcare, Secure Healthcare Ltd



THE HOSPICE
OF ST FRANCIS

26th September 2007

Mr John Streeton
Senior Buyer
Herts PCT
Royalty House
King Street
Watford Herts

Dear Mr Streeton

**Re: Dr Gerard Bulger and Dr Mary McMinn
37A Kings Road, Berkhamsted, Herts HP4 3BJ**

I am delighted to act as a referee for the Archway Practice Team and in particular Dr Gerard Bulger and Dr Mary McMinn. In my capacity as Medical Director of the Hospice of St Francis I have observed at close hand how well this practice manages their patients who are seriously ill at home.

The practice team show a real cohesive commitment to personalise the care of the patient in their own home and work creatively with other care providers both statutory and voluntary.

The feedback from patients from this surgery have been second to none and I have heard this directly from being personally involved with the care of many Archway patients over the last ten years.

I have no hesitation in supporting any community venture that they are hoping to introduce and would be delighted to discuss their proposals further.

Yours sincerely

**Dr Ros Taylor
Medical Director/CEO**

TOTAL CARE WHEN TIME IS PRECIOUS

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Dr P Edwards
90 Lavender Crescent
St Albans
Hertfordshire
AL3 5PJ

13th July 2006

Dear Sirs,

I have known Gerard Bulger for about 5 years. Initially this was whilst I was undertaking my GP registrar year at a nearby practice. I was able to spend 2 weeks observing his practice from a clinical and managerial perspective. I subsequently spent 18 months working with him and two other single-handed surgeries that collectively called themselves DASH (Dacorum Single Handers). I am now a GP principal at Everest House Surgery in Hemel Hempstead.

I was consistently impressed by his safe patient centred approach. He quickly connected with patients and arrived at a suitable management plan. Patients were encouraged to be involved at every step of the decision making process. Effective use of safety netting ensured the well being of his patients. During fund holding times Gerard's foresight allowed him to purchase equipment such an ultrasound scanner and a proctoscope: his patients clearly benefited from the rapid access to these services. Long before the arrival of the QOF (Quality and Outcomes Framework) Gerard kept excellent medical records including comprehensive health promotional data. This allowed him to target advice to those whose lifestyle choices exacerbated other risk factors.

Gerard knew his patients intimately. This was particularly important for those with chronic disease or terminal illness. Treatment plans were always clear and he would always be available to discuss finer points.

The practice ran very smoothly. Gerard had an excellent working relationship with all members of the practice staff. Each clearly understood what was expected from them, which gave the confidence to allow them to work autonomously most of the time but with the confidence that he would assist freely when required. This tight relationship extended to dealings with the rest of the primary care team. Gerard encouraged us as a primary care unit to participate in regular significant event analysis where difficult cases or issues could be discussed.

Gerard took on the challenge of providing medical services to HMP Bovingdon. It was clear that prior to his arrival the provision was chaotic and of a low level. This was apparent from talking to the unit staff but also the inmates. Gerard introduced a unifying computer system that could ultimately link to his own surgery database and introduced registers to identify and target provision to the most unwell and vulnerable inmates. He was passionate about raising the standard of healthcare as he felt it to be

inferior to that enjoyed by his other cohort of patients only 1km away. He battled with the levels of bureaucracy entrenched in prison management to bring forward the changes he felt necessary. He worked closely with existing staff and brought in new personnel where necessary to strengthen the team.

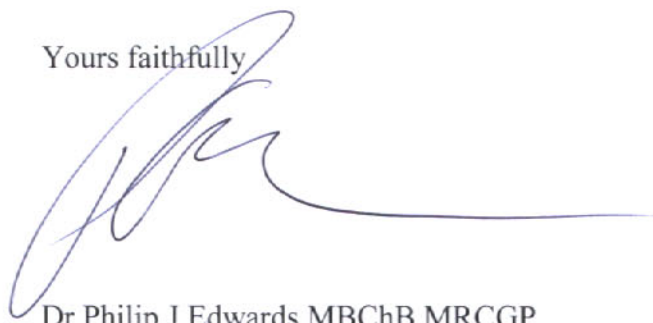
Gerard has always fought hard for single-handed practices. He is passionate in his belief that they can deliver the same high level of health care that is provided by much larger multi doctor surgeries. He formed, and is indeed still the driving force behind, a collective called DASH as described earlier. Gerard very much provides the voice and direction of this extended team. This gives the members both mutual support and a larger political voice. Ultimately DASH is able to ensure a stable platform from which to deliver quality healthcare.

As a local GP partner I can start to appreciate the effort Gerard puts into general practice at a local level. He is a familiar and respected face at clinical governance and locality meetings. It is very apparent that he has a deep understanding of political issues. He is not afraid to raise and defend his point of view however controversial it may be and is always at the heart of any debate.

Gerard has been instrumental in pushing Dacorum forwards with practice based commissioning (PBC). He quickly recognised the potential to improve local health provision. He sits on the executive committee of DacCom, the company he co-founded to lead local doctors forward with PBC.

In summary he is a caring and forward thinking GP who is driven to raise the standard of primary care.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'P. J. Edwards', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dr Philip J Edwards MBChB MRCGP