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Dr Peter Jolliffe, chief officer, Devon Local Medical Committee says:

"Devon Local Medical Committee (LMC) is fully supportive of Dr Kevin Snee, and of the actions taken by NHS Devon in regard to Dr Stephenson.

"When concerns about the Bow practice were initially raised regarding the low level of achievement in the quality and outcomes framework (QOF) 2007/08 scores, NHS Devon was correct to highlight the matter.

"When Dr Stephenson was asked to explain this difference in level of achievement when benchmarked against practices locally and nationally, it was also correct to suspend Dr Stephenson when his responses gave further cause for concern.

"Likewise, it was correct to instigate an investigation, undertaken by three clinicians from within the Devon GP community, which resulted in the requirement for Dr Stephenson to complete a personal development programme, and a placement for three months in a training practice and to have his performance confirmed as satisfactory.

"It is the considered view of Devon LMC that Dr Kevin Snee and NHS Devon acted appropriately, in its role as commissioner of healthcare services for the people of Devon."

ENDS

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