As many of you know, I have been away from the Practice on sick leave for the last few weeks - thankfully not with anything too serious. I would like to apologise for any inconvenience this has caused patients, and also to thank my colleagues for covering my absence. I hope to be able to return to work shortly after Easter.

During the time away from the Practice I have had the opportunity to think about my work life balance and re-evaluate my personal, family and work priorities for the coming years. With a very heavy heart I have decided to stand down from the partnership and will no longer be working at Throckley Primary Care from the end of June 2016. I hope to spend a little more time with family and friends and enjoying my hobbies. I plan to continue working as Clinical Director at Newcastle Gateshead CCG and also to do some out of hours GP work.

I feel extremely proud and privileged to have had the honour of serving as a GP to the patients of Throckley and surrounding areas over the past 23 years. The Practice has developed beyond recognition since 1993 when I started working at the old surgery at Back Victoria Terrace with Drs Williams, Payling and Bookless. The Practice is fortunate to have a fabulous team serving you. I have no doubt that Drs Joughin, Jones, Blaylock and Forbes, our Practice Manager Marie Bottomley and the rest of the team will carry on developing the Practice in the coming years and continue to deliver high quality care to all of our patients.

I have met so many wonderful people over the last 23 years and feel humbled to have been able to act as your Doctor to the best of my ability.

I will miss you all.

With very best wishes.

Dr Grainger

Message from Dr Grainger: