

16th May 2024

Dear colleagues,

MOBILISING GENERAL PRACTITIONERS: A CALL TO ACTION TO REBUILD GP

The General Practice contract has devalued by £620million in the past 5years.

Despite concerted efforts to recruit GPs, we find ourselves grappling with a shortage of over 2000 practitioners.

The demand for general practice is skyrocketing with **over 6million * MORE* patients** registering with English practices since 2015.

GPs now contend with an overwhelming workload, managing the equivalent of half the UK population every month and conducting a staggering 400 million appointments annually.

Despite serving as the cornerstone of the healthcare system, general practice receives a disproportionately low allocation of resources.

- **6% of NHS funding**
- **5% of all NHS staff**
- **90% of all patient contacts**

The underinvestment in general practice is not only unjust but also unsustainable.

Practice income has plummeted by an average of 20%, exacerbated by rising inflation, energy costs and staffing bills. With depleted reserves, many practices are on the brink of insolvency.

Across the country, GP partners are facing difficult decisions to save their practices:

- ***Should they make some of their staff redundant?***
- ***Should they stop taking drawings?***
- ***Has the time come to hand back their contract?***
- ***When a practice closes, who absorbs their caseload??***

This is real and already happening here in Cheshire; practices are contacting Cheshire LMC for assistance.

As stewards of community patient care and custodians of our profession, we have the authority to advocate for substantive change.

WE URGE YOU TO CONSIDER MEETING AND LOBBYING YOUR LOCAL INCUMBENT AND PROSPECTIVE MPS.

Articulate the stark reality facing general practice, **bust the myths** they may wrongly believe.

People have a right to care in their local community, from people that know them.

Continuity saves lives.

MPs will undoubtedly be motivated to help their constituents, in the current political climate.

Let's be open with patients about the consequences of losing the family doctor model. Encourage patients to voice their concerns to policymakers and emphasise the importance of preserving the family doctor model for continuity of care and community well-being.

Help them understand that general practice is at risk of going the same way as dentistry.

Is this what they want?

NEXT STEPS:

1. *Schedule meetings with your local MP and prospective candidates – educate them about General Practice's enormous value for money in the health economy and the serious consequences if this is lost from the system.*
2. *Advocate for policy reforms that prioritise adequate funding, workforce retention, and sustainable workload management.*
3. *Upload and play Rebuild GP video in your waiting room to inform your patients and staff.*
4. *Upload the [Rebuild GP video](#) and [letter to patients](#) onto your website.*
5. *Encourage patients to sign and send the [Rebuild GP template letter](#) to their MP.*
6. *Engage and energise your patient participation group to reach out to patients.*
7. *Utilise your social media platforms to raise awareness and rally grassroots support.*

(Data taken from FOIs sent to NHSE, also available in the public domain online via the GPAD data on NHS Digital, or from BMA.org.uk.)

Information collated from [Rebuild GP toolkit](#) and [GPCE toolkit](#).)

Please contact us if you have any questions or feedback about this communication or the Rebuild GP campaign.

We want to hear your thoughts on this vital issue, either via your PCN representative or directly to the executive team.

Kind regards,

Dr Daniel Harle

CLMC Medical Director

Dr David Ward

CLMC Chair

Mr William Greenwood

CLMC CEO