



North Staffordshire
LOCAL MEDICAL COMMITTEE

511 Etruria Road, Basford, Stoke-on-Trent, ST4 6HT
Tel: 0300 365 0135 Fax: 0300 365 0136
Email: admin@northstaffslmc.co.uk Url: www.northstaffslmc.co.uk

24th November 2015

Dear Patient

General Practice in Crisis: a statement from North Staffordshire Local Medical Committee

Thank you for taking the time to read this.

North Staffordshire GPs are aware that some patients are finding it increasingly difficult to get the appointments and services they need from us, and feel you should be made aware of the reasons.

Over the past few years, successive governments have reduced the investment in General Practice from around 10% of the NHS budget to nearer 7%.

In spite of this reduction in funding, we still provide 90% of consultations carried out in the NHS. There is access to GP services 24 hours, 7 days a week and the demand to see GPs is rising dramatically. There are currently 340 million GP consultations a year, an increase of 40 million in the last 5 years. This has not been matched by an increase in GP and staff numbers or an expansion in the infrastructure. Added to this we are expected to take on more and more work previously carried out in hospitals, and are obliged to attend meetings with the Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs), NHS England and spend hours preparing for and meeting the Care Quality Commission (CQC). All of these mean less time for us to see our patients.

In addition, we are faced with huge difficulties in recruiting new doctors and nurses to work in General Practice. Currently there is a shortfall of about 10,000 GPs across the country. It is impossible to see how this shortfall can be addressed when it takes a minimum of 10 years to train a GP.

In short, General Practice is in crisis.

We simply want you to know we are aware of the problems you have accessing some services and that we are working as hard as we can to provide those services. We hope you will bear with us as we strive to continue to provide quality General Practice across the City.

Dr Paul Scott
LMC Chair

Dr Harald Van der Linden
LMC Secretary

Chairman: *Dr P Scott*

Secretary: *Dr H Van der Linden*

Lay Secretary: *Miriam Adams*