



“Unless the government changes their approach and treats general practice with respect, universal NHS general practice could disappear within a decade.” says LLRLMC

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Immediate Release

This evening the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Local Medical Committee (LLRLMC)(1) held an open meeting with Dr Kieran Sharrock, Acting Chair of the British Medical Association’s GP Committee England and 50 representatives of local general practices.

Dr Kieran Sharrock told the meeting that the government has imposed changes to the GP contract for next year that will result in more GPs leaving the profession and patients waiting even longer for health care. Without action to reverse the changes, patients will come to harm.

General practice provides 90% of NHS healthcare and is the only part of the NHS service that is providing more appointments compared with prior to the pandemic. Every working day more than 17,500 people attend an appointment at their local GP surgery in LLR (2).

Dr Grant Ingrams (GP, Managing Partner at Oakmeadow Surgery, Glenfield, and Executive Chair of LLRLMC) said “General Practice in Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland is in crisis. Our patients already cannot get the health care from their GP that they need, and their health is suffering. This is causing stress and dissatisfaction for patients and GPs alike. This is leading to burnout of GPs who continue to choose to leave.”

“In LLR, we now need an additional 175 full time equivalent GPs to be able to provide a safe service. To put this into perspective this means that in effect 315,000 patients locally do not have a GP (2).”

“GPs are at the end of their tether. A recent poll of 123 local GPs and Practice Managers found that 95.9% were dissatisfied with the imposed contract and that 76.4% would be willing to take some form of industrial action (3). 61.4% are willing to provide an emergency only service for one or more days, and 43.1% are willing to stop all services.”

Dr Ingrams concluded “Due to a decade of disinvestment in general practice, and being inappropriately pilloried by parts of the media, general practice in LLR is in a crisis. This latest imposed contract will be the last straw for many more GPs who will leave the profession. This will mean even fewer GPs left to provide services to patients. Unless the government changes their approach and treats general practice with respect, universal NHS general practice could disappear within a decade.”

Ends

Further Information:

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Notes to Editors:

- 1) The Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Local Medical Committee is an elected representative body with a statutory function to represent NHS GPs in this area.
- 2) Data provided by NHS Digital
- 3) Survey carried out in March 2023. Full results are available by contacting the LMC.