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**“The NHS 10-Year Plan is an unwanted diversion, which recycles policy likely to fail again due to lack of management support and investment (1).”**

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**Immediate Release**

Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland LMC (LLRLMC) welcomes the additional investment that the Labour Government have promised the NHS, but the 10 year plan based upon the development of Neighbourhood Centres is a recycled idea doomed to failure.

In 2008 the then Labour Government proposed similar centres called polyclinics or Darzi Centres. Due to lack of central investment and the resolve to transfer money from hospitals to community services, this policy never gained wings and was abandoned in 2010.

Bringing more services closer to the patient has been the declared aim of multiple governments since the birth of the NHS but has never been fully delivered.

Dr Ingrams (Chief Executive, LLRLMC) said “we already have neighbourhood centres – they are called general practices. Due to disinvestment and poor government policies, our general practice service has been eroded from the jewel of the NHS Crown to one that patients no longer respect or get a good service from.”

General practices continue to provide 80 to 90% of healthcare in the UK. They are most productive part of the NHS, and the most cost effective. Despite this, previous governments have reduced the percentage of the NHS budget spent on general practice reduced from 11% to 5%. At the same time the population has increased and the number of fully qualified GPs shrunk by 5.5%. Every GP now has to look after 320 more patients on average than they did in 2015. Leicester City has the second lowest ratio of GPs per population in the country.

In addition, patients are becoming more complex with more illnesses and more health needs. The number of patients with multiple conditions has increased by 14% since 2019. As patients are not being seen in hospitals due to long waiting lists, general practices are also having to cope with looking after sick patients who should be under hospital care.

The 10 year plan also includes an increase in general practitioners, but without additional funding to employ them and significant additional investment in GP premises this will not happen. The majority of practices do not have sufficient rooms to run current services, and cannot find room for additional GPs, or even the space to train them.

Dr Ingrams said: “The 10 year plan is an unwelcome diversion. The NHS is not broken but in crisis due to starvation of funding and poor government policy. We do not need a recycled idea, which will fail once again due to the government having decimated the management needed to implement change, and insufficient funding to pump prime the change needed. Care needs to be brought closer to patient’s home, and this would be better achieved by investing in the current general practice and community services.”

“Unless this government concentrates on developing and supporting general practice as the bed rock of the NHS, patient satisfaction, and the public health will not improve. Bright ideas do not save lives.”

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**Further Information:**

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**Notes to Editors:**

1. The Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Local Medical Committee is an independent elected representative body with a statutory function to represent NHS GPs in this area. First established in 1911, they currently work under the NHS Act 2006.