

## GENERAL PRACTICE IS UNDER PRESSURE WE KNOW THAT...

**YOU** are finding it increasingly difficult to get an appointment with your chosen doctor as quickly as either you or we would like.... we want to explain why.

- The number of patients is increasing and the population is aging
- Patients have more complex health problems and are therefore visiting their GP more often
- There were 367 million GP consultations last year, up from 340 million 5 years ago compared with 17.4 million to A&E.
- Your GP is being asked to do more and more work for hospitals because they are under pressure too.
- Successive governments have given us more paperwork so less time to spend with patients
- The government made online appointments a “must do” in the GP contract
- We have to have time out to prepare for Care Quality Commission inspections as well as spending time on educational meetings so that we can ‘revalidate’ and remain in practice.
- General Practices do 90% of the consultations in the NHS on less than 8% of the budget, 10 years ago it was 10% of the budget.
- All this means that many young doctors don’t want to be GPs anymore and established GPs want to leave the profession early.
- In the last 5 years it has been increasingly difficult to replace doctors leaving their Practices

### **This may mean..**

- You may have to wait longer to see your GP
- Other healthcare professionals within the team may see you when appropriate
- You will get all the services you need but not necessarily those you may want.

### **Please help us to help you**

- Be patient and kind to staff
- Don’t believe the bad press, please share these facts with others and speak to your MP and patient participation group
- All we want is more time and less interference so that we can get on with what we have been trained to do - to help you and your families get well, **keep well and stay well.**