

## **GENERAL PRACTICE IS CURRENTLY FACING INTENSE RESOURCE AND WORKFORCE PRESSURES**

We are aware that patients can find it difficult at times to access their GP. We feel it is important for patients to understand that the Doctors workload in general practice has increased over the past few years due to rising demand, managing long term conditions for an ever- increasing aging population, shift in care from hospitals and extended access initiatives.

Despite a Government pledge to increase the number of doctors working in general practice by 5,000 by 2020/21, the ever increasing workload, combined with falling resources, has led fewer doctors choosing to train as GP's. As a result of the pressure many GP's feel they are unable to commit to a permanent doctor post, and prefer to work as a locum (non-permanent doctor role) with limited administrative work.

The shortage of GP's has affected a huge number of practices throughout the country and definitely in this area, you may have realised that this has impacted on our surgery. As a result we are having to look at ways to improve efficiency and effectiveness, for example GP's working together in local groups, so we have formed a Leyland Collaborative which includes 6 surgeries. We are constantly implementing new ways of working and looking at different skill mix to ensure that we continue to deliver high quality services to patients. We have appointed a Nurse Practitioner and Advanced Nurse Practitioner who work alongside our existing team of doctors and nurses. We try to ensure that we use long term locums to ensure continuity of your care.

We are delighted to confirm that we have recently appointed a permanent salaried doctor who will be joining the team in June/July 2018 and are looking to appoint a second doctor who will hopefully start in October 2018. Please be reassured that we continue to try and recruit permanent GP's at the practice.