

## WHY GP'S WORKING 0800-2000 WON'T SOLVE THE NHS PROBLEMS

Nationally GPs are contracted to provide routine and urgent care (not emergency) 0800-1830 Monday to Friday. Our surgery also provides extended routine care 0700-0800 on some week days and 0700-1930 on another.

Outside 0800-1830 Monday to Friday, there is an urgent out of hours GP service available via 111, we help fund this service. There is a national shortage of GPs, 1/3 of GP practices have an unfilled vacancy and are struggling to cover their core 0800-1830 hours.

**Asking GP surgeries to cover routine care 0800-2000 7 days a week will mean there will be less availability in the week.**

Did you know on average a GP communicates with on average 50 patients a day? (in our duty surgeries we can consult with 100 patients per day). GP's manage up to 100 prescriptions each day all of which need to be checked for appropriate usage, monitoring and interactions. GP's have to read and code and action letters from third parties (hospitals, patients, other disciplines) every day and these can be in excess of 100, GP's check all test results coming into the practice electronically from the hospital and then speak with patients on the telephone regarding these. They write referral letters from the day's consultations, they make home visits and contact other health care professionals to discuss patients. They attend meetings on prescribing, clinical commissioning, meetings on how to make services in our area sustainable, palliative care meetings, child protection meetings and practice meetings to discuss changes they want to make in the surgery and how to react to opportunities and threats to the surgery.

On top of this there is continued mandatory training, resuscitation updates, adult and child safeguarding and keeping up to date on the latest guidance to carry out.

That is why the face to face consultations are only 50% of our total work.

Most weeks GP's come in on their days off, work from home and often leave much after the surgery has closed. They cannot physically do more.

**GP's are not the answer to the hospital crisis.**

Data from Work Bank and King's Fund :

Number of doctors per 1,000 population :UK 2.8 France 3.3 Germany 3.9 Italy 4.0 Spain 4.9 Number of Beds per 1,000 population UK 2.9 France 6.4 Germany 8.2 Italy 3.4 Spain 3.1 GDP on Health Care UK 8.5% France 11.5% Germany 11.2% Italy 9.2% Spain 9.1%

So the public should be writing to their MPs to pressurise the Government for more resources if they really want to improve the whole situation and want to get better accessible care.