

Fareham & Gosport Trainers Group Meeting 29/1/16

Fareham Health Centre 19.30 – 21.00

Present DH, KG, AP, SG, RL, HL, EN, RE, KK, NW, MS, CB, SM

Pharmaceutical sponsorship Colette Ellis (Bohringer)

Agenda given over to welcoming our local Conservative Member of Parliament Suella Fernandes

Meet and greet then and listening exercise leading to reply from a government perspective from Ms Fernandes,

Recruitment & retention issues

The Government line was portrayed of 10000 more Doctors over a 5 year period Ms Fernandes also stated the manifesto aim to recruit 5000 more GPs over the term of the parliament. There was also a discussion on forced retention of junior Doctors working in the NHS after qualification for a mandatory period of time .

The group responded by pointing out the facts

- Those increases are in the consultant population. GP numbers have remained static
- Young Doctors are no applying for GP and Wessex VTS is under filled (and this is a popular Deanery)
- Government rhetoric has changed to 5000 extra clinicians in a supposed realization that it is an unrealistic target
- No focus on retention of older experienced GPs and an explanation this is exacerbated by hard factors such as worsening pension conditions and cessation of seniority payments, with additional soft factors of increased workload
- A long round robin education discussion for Ms Fernanades of just how must increased work from all sources GP has had to cope with from a growing and more demanding population

Funding

Ms Fernandes was unaware of the reduction in funding of primary care over the last 5 years. She held the belief the NHS budget was ring fenced and saw a real increase in funding.

Facts were explained

We see 90% of the NHS contacts for 8.2% of the budget
This has reduced in real terms since 2009 from 11%
This directly impacts on patient care
This impacts on GP finances and we as GPs are seeing a year on year pay cut with increased expenses and static uplift
This in turn impacts on retention & recruitment
GP hourly rate is less than a nurse practitioner
The position is unsustainable

GP Model of care

Ms Fernandes stated the Government commitment to retain the NHS as a service fee at the point of delivery but recognized there were challenges to this.

The Government drive towards super practices was felt to be a cost saving exercise driven by adversity as opposed to the best model of care from a patient perspective.

It was eloquently explained that GP in partnership model actually save money by knowing patients well and taking appropriate risk to keep them out of the hospital setting. A theoretical setting was painted with our model working for a large provider without autonomy. It was theorized that this would be a situation whereby the individual GP would take little risk and refer the local secondary care provider without a thought. The point being made is that we felt the Government really did not understand the value of the individual GP in keeping the NHS costs as low as they are (it was mentioned in the 9 most developed nations and OECD survey found the NHS to be the lowest cost per capita at \$3600 with the best comparable outcomes). The US model which our health secretary champions came last.

Junior Doctors

For reasons stated above we made it clear we were in support of the junior Doctors industrial action. The new imposed contract would be a disaster for the NHS and lead to an exodus of young talented people.

We felt it a very unfair imposition and a truly Draconian approach.

Close

We asked Ms Fernandes to reflect upon 3 take home messages

1. Funding
2. GP as the end point of both medical and public expectation unsustainable
3. She felt it was clear we were passionate and needed a voice to politics to vocalize our concerns

The group thanked Ms Fernandes for her time and felt continuous open dialogue would be constructive. She promised to put our points to the Secretary of State for Health. DH 30/1/16

