

SWANLOW MEDICAL CENTRE

Dene Drive Primary Care Centre, Dene Drive, Winsford, Cheshire. CW7 1AT

REBUILD

GENERAL

PRACTICE

To all our Patients,

Thank you for taking the time to read this.

Before we tell you anything else, let us tell you why we became GPs.....

“To care for people, to care for you, we want to give great care, to meet you, to listen to you and look after you and your families and we understand it may not feel this way right now, but all we can do is tell you the truth”.

And the truth is – general practice/primary care (you may hear it called lots of things but this is your Doctors Surgery i.e. Swanlow Medical Centre) is in crisis!! This is not because of us, or our staff who work with us. It is because of decades of underfunding and neglect, broken government promises and political contempt for you – our patients – that the system is broken.

This crisis is putting you, and us, at an increased risk.

- There are now 2,200 patients for every GP in England
- Nearly 9 in 10 GPs fear patients aren't always safe at their surgeries
- 1 in 4 (24%) GPs know colleagues who have taken their own lives due to work pressures
- GPs see more patients each day than is safe for you or them

This isn't your fault but it isn't ours either. We can't sit by and let our leaders destroy the general practice we all need. In 2019 the UK Government promised to deliver a workforce plan for general practice and the NHS including attracting “6,000 more doctors into General Practice”. In 2022, we are still waiting!

GPs from across England, Scotland and Wales are calling for more support to “Rebuild General Practice”. This must include

- Recruitment: The UK Government delivering on its commitment of an additional 6,000 GPs in England by 2024
- Retention: Tackling the factors driving GPs out of the profession such as burnout
- Safety: A plan to reduce GP workload and in turn improve patient safety.

That is why we have written this open letter to all our patients. We want you to know what is really happening and we would be honoured to receive your support:

- Follow @Rebuild GP
- Visit Rebuild.co.uk
- Write to your MP to insist that THEY tackle the workforce and workload crisis in general practice.

Thank you for reading

Dr Achla Damania, Dr Susan Kemsley, Dr Jonathan Griffiths, Dr Clare Oxley, Dr Danielle Washbrook, Dr Holly Holmes, Dr Carol Brocklesby-White, Dr Sarah Wignall, Dr Omar Mahmoud and all the staff at Swanlow Medical Centre