

Dear Patients

The NHS is in crisis.

- We're seeing 20% more patients than before the pandemic
- We're seeing more than 7,000 patients each month
- Hospital waiting lists are increasing, meaning patients come back to us

Our costs are rising, just as yours are – electricity, estates, supplies, paying our staff – yet we receive no additional funding or grants. We are all struggling to stay afloat. If this continues, your local practice may disappear.

As a patient, you would need to move to a neighbouring practice, and join a long list of people waiting for appointments.

At Kingswood Health Centre we are feeling the pressure and are working as hard as we can to provide the right care for our patients.

We are unable to recruit more staff, and cannot fund replacement of new staff which will mean for you:

- Wait times for appointments may be longer
- We may not be able to respond as quickly to requests
- Medical reports, assessments or complaints may take longer to complete

Other NHS services can help ease the pressure so you maybe be signposted out of the surgery to a local pharmacy or other service. Your local chemist can now see and treat a number of common conditions and prescribe medication (such as shingles, ear infections in children, impetigo, coughs and sore throats, urinary tract infections). Please do take advantage of these options.

Please help us free up clinical time by trying to self-manage any minor illnesses, visiting the pharmacy first and by attending health checks when invited which aim to help keep you well at home.

We are worried and distressed about the current situation too and wish we could do more.

If you feel strongly about the issue of general practice funding, you may wish to contact your local member of parliament to express your views.

In the meantime we will continue to do our best to support our patients and we appreciate your support and consideration during these difficult times.

The Partners

Kingswood Health Centre

April 2024