



## AUCHTERMUCHTY HEALTH CENTRE – NEWSLETTER

I'm sure none of you have failed to notice that the NHS is having its budget slashed and, as a result, services are suffering.

General Practice is struggling with an ever increasing burden of workload, but the funding to pay for this is going down. Unfortunately the Politicians (all of them!!) have been using the NHS as a political "football" with very short sighted and vote grabbing policies, ideas and changes.

### Did you know?

- **90% of all interactions** with the NHS are in General Practice, but we only receive **8.4% of the budget**.
- GPs provide **340 million consultations every year, up 20% in the last 5 years** alone and expected to **rise a further 12% by 2016**.
- GP practices are **funded for 2 consultations per patient per year**. The average Patient now consults about **6 times per year, twice as much as 10 years ago**.
- 78% of consultations are for patients with 2 or more long-term illnesses and this is expected to **grow by another 50% by 2018**.
- The Surgery has to issue **43% more prescriptions in 2015** compared to 5 years ago. We will be issuing just under a **quarter of a million this year!**
- **86% of GPs have reported low morale and 94% have said their workload has increased**. As a result **6 in every 10 are considering early retirement. 1 in 7 want to leave the UK**.
- **A third of GPs plan to retire** in the next 5 years.
- There has been a **GP training crisis** happening for years. Newly qualified doctors are actively choosing NOT to go in to General Practice. **The number of people applying for GP training has fallen by at least 15% in the last year**.
- As of June, until we have successfully recruited 1 x FTE GP, **we will lose 11 sessions per week. This equates to over 8,000 appointments per year**. With more GP vacancies in Fife than ever before, we are unsure when we will fill these sessions.

**Headline grabbing sound bites like 7 day opening and appointments being guaranteed within 48 hours sound good, but are unworkable unless significant investment in General Practice is made:**

- If General Practice is struggling to provide services over 5 days, how on earth can it cope with 7 days, with the same number of GPs and the same funding?
- If Surgeries have to provide appointments within 48 hours with no extra Doctors, they would have no choice but to stop appointments being booked in advance.
- It takes 10 years to train a GP, so where will a new Government get extra GPs from?