



# Your GPs are on your side fighting for the healthcare you deserve.

## What is GP Collective Action and What Does It Mean for Patients at Vernon Street Medical Centre?

In recent months, GPs across England, including those at Vernon Street Medical Centre, have [voted overwhelmingly to take collective action](#) in response to ongoing issues with funding and working conditions in general practice. This page explains what the collective action is, why it's happening, and how it will affect your care at our surgery.

## Why Are GPs Taking Collective Action?

GP services in the UK are under significant strain. With an ageing population and rising demand for healthcare, the system is buckling under financial pressure. Primary Care funding has fallen by 20% in the last eight years, but we offer 20% more appointments than we did eight years ago.

General practice receives just 5.6% of the total NHS budget, despite handling 84% of patient contacts with the NHS every single day. This lack of funding translates to receiving only 30p per patient per day, less than the cost of an apple, to provide essential GP services—whilst the current cost of running your surgery costs 33p per day.

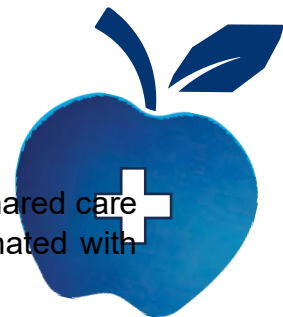
At Vernon Street Medical Centre, these funding gaps mean fewer appointments and overstretched resources. GPs are often seeing far more than the recommended safe limit of 25 patients per day. The collective action aims to address these challenges, ensuring your practice remains sustainable and can provide safe, high-quality care, for you and your family in the long term.

This isn't about increasing GP wages—it's about adequately funding a service that is critical for the NHS to function. By securing a fairer share of the NHS budget, we can ensure we provide enough appointments, employ sufficient doctors and clinicians, and ultimately keep GP surgeries like yours open.

## What Does Collective Action Involve?

Collective action is not a strike. GPs will strictly adhere to their contracts and reduce additional, unpaid work. Changes in how we work will be phased in to reduce the impact on the care you receive. Key changes that will affect you include:

**Phase one** - Unfunded requests from Derby and Burton Hospital: We will no longer handle requests that fall outside our contracted responsibilities. Instead, these will be redirected to the hospital for follow-up. This ensures that your GP can focus on providing you with the care you deserve.



**Phase two** - Shared Care with Private Providers: We will stop managing shared care agreements with private providers, meaning that services typically coordinated with private healthcare will now be handled directly by the provider.

**Phase three** - Simplified Referrals: We are simplifying referral letters for more time-efficient communication with hospitals. However, this might mean shorter referral documentation but should not affect the quality of your care.

**Phase four** - Shared Care with the hospitals: We will stop managing shared care agreements with the hospitals, meaning that services typically coordinated with secondary care will now be handled directly by the hospital department that you are being treated by.

**Phase five** - Appointment Limits: We will adhere to the BMA's recommendation of 25 patient contacts per day to ensure safe, high-quality care for all. This might mean longer waits for non-urgent appointments but will ensure that your GP can offer you undivided attention when you need it.

**Safe Care:** When our capacity is reached, you will be guided toward alternative care services like walk-in centres or the NHS 111 helpline.

### **How Will This Affect My Care?**

Despite the changes, Vernon Street Medical Centre is committed to minimising disruptions. Here's what will remain the same:

**Surgery Hours:** The practice will remain open during the same hours.

**Routine Services:** The following services will continue as normal:

- The nursing clinics including treatment room services, vaccinations, health checks and long-term condition reviews

- Face-to-face, online and telephone access to your admin and clinical team

- Online, telephone, or in-person appointments, either for the same day or in advance, based on your preference (subject to availability)

- Prescription services

- Access to Social Prescribers, First Contact Physios, Pharmacists, Midwife, HCA, Nurses and GPs

- Contraceptive clinics

- Minor surgery clinics

However, please note that fewer immediate appointments may be available on certain days. Our reception staff will help direct you to the appropriate alternative services when we are at capacity.



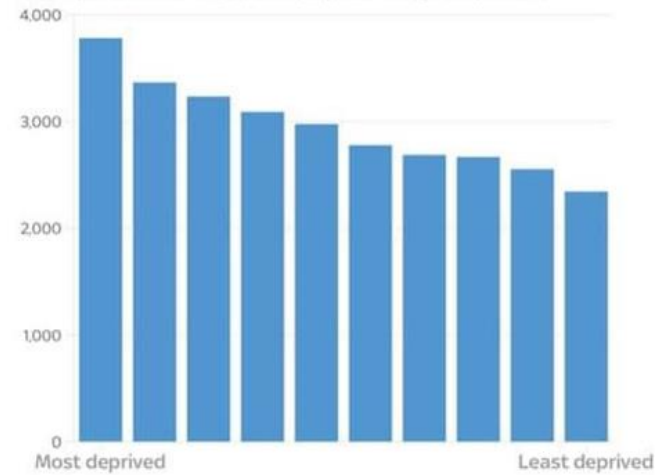
## Why Is This Action Important?

Collective action is aimed at protecting the future of your GP services. By fighting for better funding and more manageable workloads, GPs aim to sustain high-quality primary care services that you deserve. This action is essential to ensure that Vernon Street Medical Centre can continue providing care that meets both patient's needs and the safe, professional standards of our staff.

# GENERAL PRACTICE - CRISIS

### Deprived areas have the busiest GPs

Patients per GP\* at nearest practice, by deprivation, England, April 2023

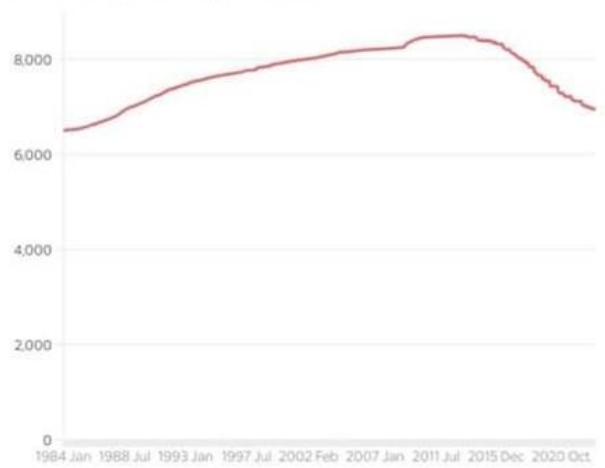


SOURCE: Sky News analysis of data from NHS England/ONS  
\*Patient numbers are adjusted for health needs

DATA & FORENSICS

### Nearly one in five GP practices have closed since 2013

Number of GP practices in England and Wales

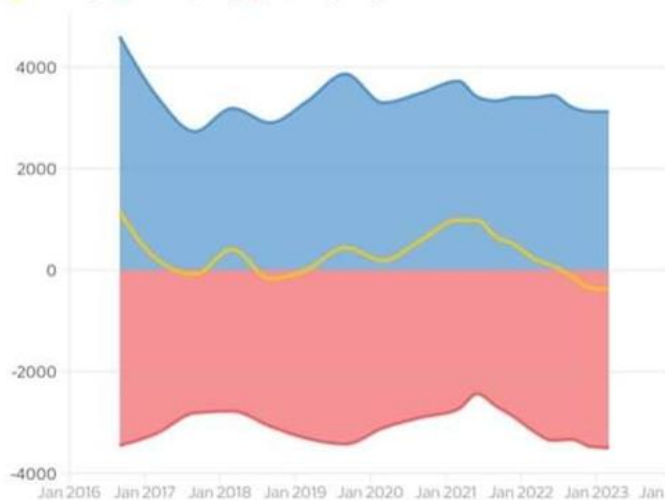


SOURCE: NHS Digital

### Nearly 3,500 GPs quit last year, the highest on record

Rolling annual change in fully-qualified GP numbers, England, 2016-2023

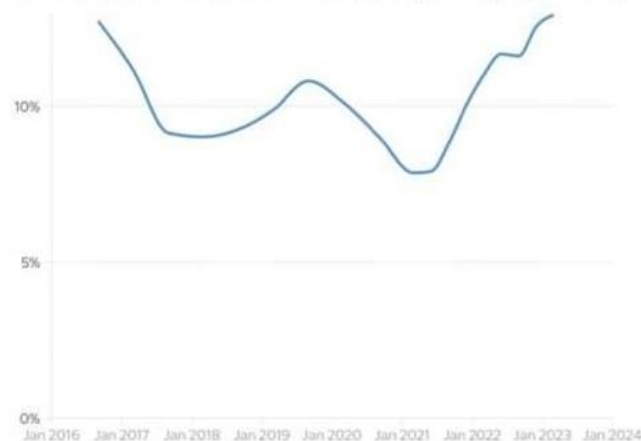
Net change Number joining Number quitting



SOURCE: NHS England

### More than one in eight newly-qualified GPs have quit in the past year

Share of fully-qualified GPs aged under 35 who quit (rolling annual figures, year to date)



SOURCE: NHS England



## We Need You!

At Vernon Street Medical Centre, your involvement is crucial. You can help us make sure this collective action succeeds by staying informed about any changes and disruptions. Join our Patient Participation Group to help shape how we shape your healthcare service together and encourage others to support this action. Together, we can fight for the healthcare you deserve.

**Stay Informed:** We will keep this page updated with the latest information. You can also subscribe to our monthly SMS updates or check the digital notice board in our reception area for real-time information about practice capacity and service changes.

**Join the Patient Participation Group:** We need you! Please get involved by sharing your views and helping us shape the future of your healthcare at your practice together. The PPG plays an important role in shaping the future of our services by providing feedback and helping to improve the overall patient experience. By joining, you'll have the opportunity to influence decisions and help us maintain a high standard of care. [For more information or to sign up](#), click here. You can also speak to a member of our reception team to learn more.

**Encourage others:** Share your experiences with other patients to help raise awareness.

## Where to access help when we reach capacity

**NHS 111:** Available 24/7, this service provides advice and directs you to appropriate care. Call 111 or visit the [NHS 111 website](#).

**999:** for **emergency**, life-threatening healthcare

**A&E:** For **urgent** medical support

**Derby Urgent Care Walk-in Centre:** These centres can provide same-day care for non-urgent needs.

Entrance C, Urgent Care Centre, Osmaston Road, Derby DE1 2GD

Open 08.00 – 20.00 7 days a week including bank holidays.

**Pharmacy First:** Your local pharmacy can offer prescriptions and advice for conditions such as infections, sore throats, sinusitis, and more. [Find your local pharmacy here](#).

