Wessex LMCs
General Practice
OPEL Report

General Practice OPEL Report
Bath & NE Somerset, Swindon and Wiltshire
Week Ending Friday 16th October 2026

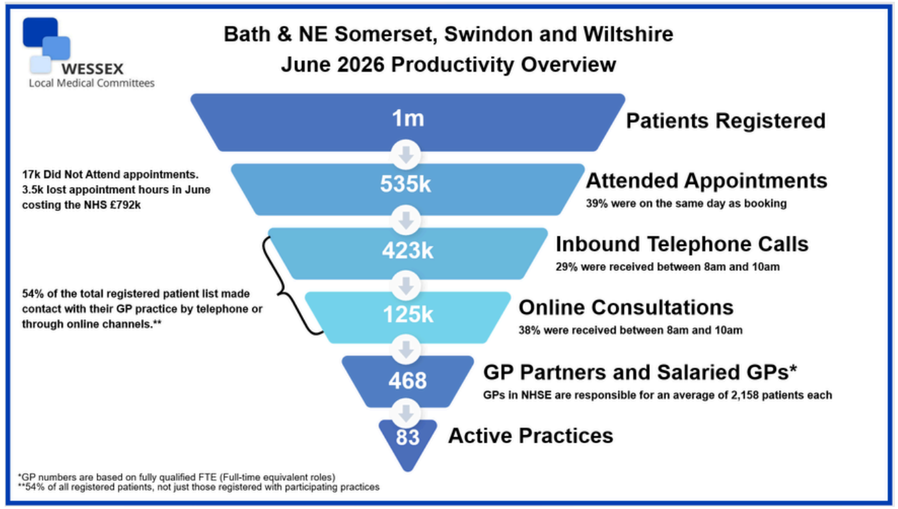
WESSEX
Local Medical Committees

Count of practices declaring their OPEL status.

Staff sickness ongoing in the admin and reception teams

OPEL 1 Practices are able to maintain patient flow & meet anticipated demand within available resources
OPEL 2 Practices are starting to show signs of pressure
OPEL 3 Practices are experiencing major pressures compromising patient flow
OPEL 4 Practices are experiencing escalating levels of pressure. There is increased potential for patient care & compromised safety.

General Practice is being overwhelmed. Here is why .....



PRACTICE COMMENTS

Sickness across teams putting strain on surgery as well as extremely high demand for on the day Duty Doctor triage calls and appointments.

There are staff off sick including GPs, Health Care Assistants, management and admin. This is leaving us struggling a little to cope with the amount of work. It is especially busy with seasonal vaccinations and a lot of Covid type illnesses in the community.

Continued absence of key clinical team members adding strain to an already stretched service.

High demand, limited capacity.

Flu / covid spreading throughout clinical and admin teams. This is impacting capacity and call answering within the practice. This is 4th week we have had alot of sickness so really struggling with demand.

Increased sickness absence across the practice, alongside planned leave, maternity leave and long-term sickness. This has placed significant pressure on staffing levels, increased workload for remaining staff and compromised patient access.

Significant sickness across clinical staff

High demand for GP appointments. Locum GPs, phlebotomist and practice nurse in place to deal with pressure

74 urgent on the day consultations for our 4 x duty GP team. All other GPs at capacity, some unused appointments for the nursing team. Sickness absense & holiday in the reception team, which had an impact on the call takers.

Staff sickness across all departments is high.

Due to uncapped, unsafe working limits, we are at risk of burnout and are at maximum safe working limits.

6 locums needed in the last week. 1 nurse off sick. 3 admin staff off sick. RED OPEL hit on several days

Increased staff sickness and patient demand. Staff in Maternity Leave

For more information about workforce, workload and funding, please visit our page: Local and National General Practice Data