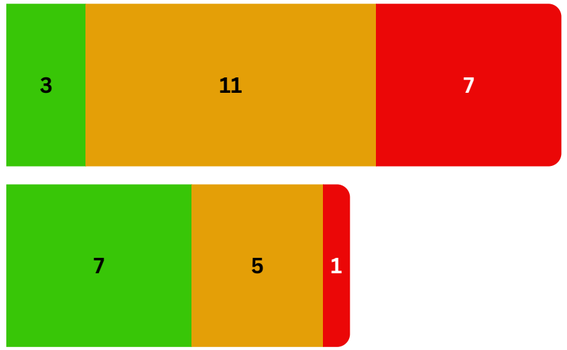
Wessex LMCs
General Practice
OPEL Report

General Practice OPEL Report
DORSET
Week Ending Friday 16th October 2026

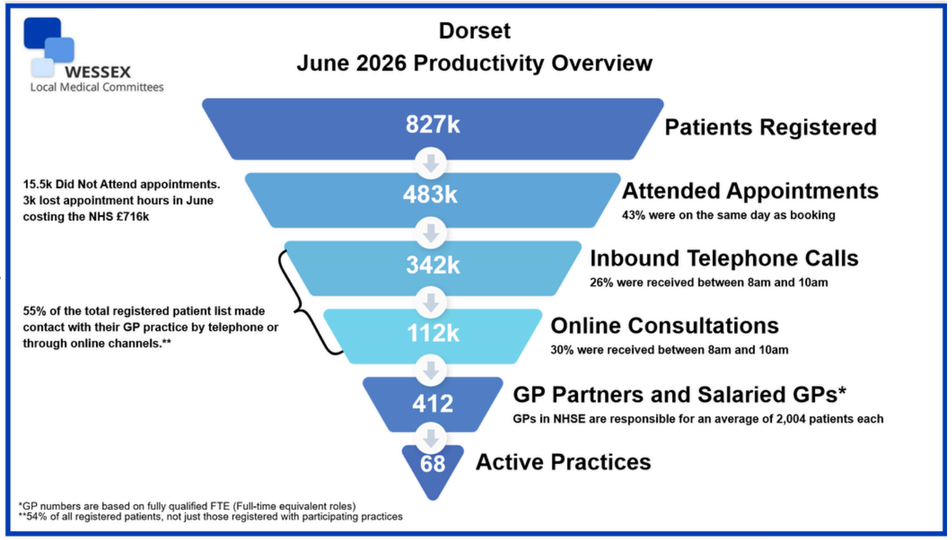
WESSEX
Local Medical Committees

Count of practices declaring their OPEL status.



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

Staff are all getting ill with the viruses swirling and patient expectations stay high!

The surgery is struggling with being short staffed and winter sickness has hit so have staff illness. Reception has been a struggle with staffing and also wait for bloods due to phlebotomist being off poorly. Staff resignation after only 3.5 months, struggling to retain staff. Morale low as wages are not high enough for the demand and pressures of Primary Care.

Short staffed due to sickness and annual leave again!

Staff sickness is high, morale is low. Vicious circle that we just can't seem to get out of. Recruitment for admin/reception staff is slow and training the new team puts more strain on the existing team who are struggling. When will it end !

Short staffed in all departments: Nurses/Dispensary and Reception - very difficult time!

GP & Advanced Nurse Practitioner (ANP) wait times within target. Bank nurse & Health Care Assistant (HCA) (bloods) booked in across October half term to help meet anticipated patient demands.

Struggling for appointments - patients frustrated for the wait time. Next routine is 23rd November.

Thank you for your feedback, which consistently highlights the significant pressures you encounter daily. While some of your comments were not included in this week's report, we have instead used them as valuable examples to initiate direct discussions with your ICB. Please be assured that your organisation name have not been mentioned in our conversations.

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