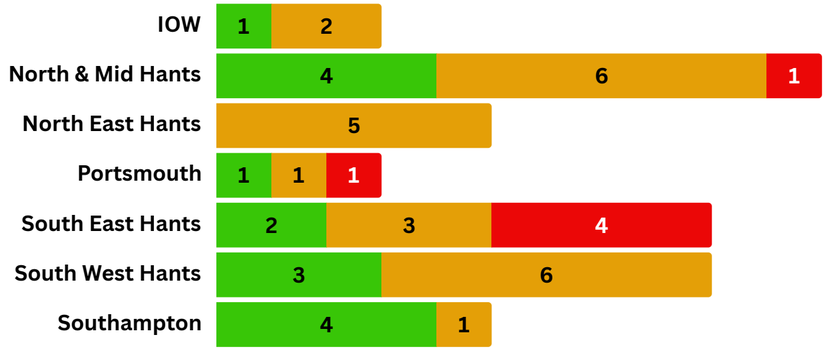
Wessex LMCs
General Practice
OPEL Report

General Practice OPEL Report
Hampshire and Isle of Wight
Week Ending Friday 23rd 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.

Appointment Data

For Hampshire & the Isle of Wight practices - August 2026

Source: NHS Digital (data for the month of August 2026) Patient population 2,145,511 (as of 1st of September 2026)

1,012,275 Total appointments (all staff)	**555,992** Patients seen face to face	**43%** of patients who contacted their practice had a same day appointment
45,657 Number of 'did not attend' appointments	**9,512** Hours lost from 'did not attend' appointments*	**906** Days lost from 'did not attend' appointments*

*Based on an average appointment duration of 12.5 minutes & average 10.5 hours in a working day)

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

PRACTICE COMMENTS

"Staff sickness has increased, with viral infections now affecting the team. This has a knock-on effect on patient care, and staff (both well and unwell) are feeling under pressure to work harder to support their colleagues. This is not at the practice's request, but reflects the strain the team is under. Goodwill and teamwork remain evident across the practice, but this is coming at the cost of staff wellbeing. The patient population is becoming increasingly complex, and the volume of documentation and work transferred from the hospital setting is growing exponentially. The introduction of neighbourhoods, with no clear plan for how this will be funded, places further pressure on an already stretched system. In addition, new systems continue to be introduced to support practices at ground level, but without the extra funding needed to monitor and use them properly. These combined pressures are not sustainable, and without adequate resources the practice cannot continue to absorb them."

Once again, Hampshire & Isle of Wight practices have shared valuable and insightful comments this week.

Due to the volume of responses received, additional comments can be found on the following page.

These first-hand accounts provide a compelling insight into the significant pressures facing frontline General Practice across Hampshire & Isle of Wight in 2026.

We ask that you to take a few moments to read them.

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PRACTICE COMMENTS

Demand is increasing as expected due to winter pressures. However, staff sickness has had a huge impact. We are currently a GP down due to an unexpected absence and are finding it difficult to source any locums. Routine appointments are being pushed back, which is frustrating for patients.

The flu and covid appointments are adding pressure, as well as staff sickness and shortages

Some staff sickness, which the Team is managing well which of course puts additional pressure on. 'Winter is Coming'.

The combination of clinician leave, sickness and the continuing increase in online consultations is draining the practice. Frontline staff are being overwhelmed and their resilience is being severely tested. There appears to have been no let up in pressure since the new system was put in place 12 months ago

Very tight same-day capacity this week. Routine wait is now at several weeks. Over 600 online consultations received on Monday with over 500 requiring clinical review. Patient contacts include 481 online requests and 491 phone calls, without accounting footfall, letters, and other modes.

High amount of sickness and half term holidays mean high absence across clinical teams. High demand with online consultations.

Nurses sick. Reception Sick. Managers tired. GPs overwhelmed.

Staff holiday and sickness cover, Covid and flu campaigns and additional requirements behind COVID and FLU

Increasing sickness due to colds/covid. Lack of trainees who aid with our on the day appointments. Annual leave

Demand on duty doctor has increased, home visits are higher than average for this time of year, staff sickness has impacted on services.

Busy but manageable

OPEL 3: Due to staff sickness in particular GP's and patient winter pressures.

Overwhelmed with phone calls Monday. Staff sickness and holidays adding to pressure

GPs off sick contributing to already really high demand from patients

Staff illness has improved but still struggling with capacity due to high demand and open staffing vacancies. Currently filling the gap with locums which is expensive!

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.