PRG minutes 1st Ocotber

Multiple Apologies – illness and work commitments

Present PM, VN, AT, IG

Discussion round the party political promises re availability of GPs and how this differs from the reality.

Results of McHugh report made available, which indicates high level of young GPs leaving to practice abroad where there is less political interference and patients are encouraged to take responsibility for their own health and deal with minor illness leaving more a capacity for those who need to see a Dr.

Additional problems of more senior Drs who work till they reach burnout and just leave or work till children are through university or similar and leave.

Thought of going back to GPs working hugely longer hours than they already do and treating patients while tired is not attractive to anyone. 12 hour opening 7 days a week will not lead to more appointments it will lead to fewer Drs at any one time and those Drs are likely to be tired. Noted that on average Drs work 50+ hours a week as actually consulting with patients is only one part of work- checking results of tests that have been ordered and taking actions if needed, dealing with hospital discharges, writing medical reports plus endless stream of paperwork generated by govt all have to be fitted into a working week. Many GPs in fact take additional update courses at weekends and do cover out of hours sessions so are working many more hours than the gutter press suggest

The unrealistic expectations promoted by politicians and the media of what GPs and indeed the NHS as a whole can possibly be responsible for were discussed. There was support and appreciation for the NHS as it stands in terms of availability and it was noted that when this practice offered Saturday opening patients made appts but did not turn up.

No firm conclusions of any sort simply awareness raising.

Follow up re previous requests. LP has approached the council about getting car park remarked as it is their responsibility – they declined on grounds of cost, additional request to local councillor re possible using some of the money they have to make small grants to organisations in their area met with complete non response. Costs quoted were astronomical £800 plus VAT to mark out the disabled slots alone – all 9 of them! Consideration to be given to trying to attract alternative funding.

Meeting with MP went ahead but other than Mr Mudie meeting alcohol worker and having resume of work being done, which project he has been very supportive of, it was felt that so close to a general election and, given that he stands down next time, there was relatively little influence he could bring to bear. He will be bringing his would be successor to meet the practice team in January so hopefully we will be bale to continue the positive relationship we have had with Mr Mudie.