

## **DOCTORS UNION CALLS FOR EMERGENCY RADICAL ACTION TO SAVE GENERAL PRACTICE AND FAMILY MEDICINE**

The campaigning medical trade union Doctors in UNITE, concerned at falling numbers of general practitioners, today issued proposals for revitalising primary care by rooting general practice in local communities supported by community development workers and strong primary care teams. The proposals also call for a public health lead in each neighbourhood.

“British general practice is facing a ‘life or death’ crisis due to massive workload with more doctors leaving the profession than are joining. This is taking place as more patients than ever are using the service. This is due to a total failure by Government to meet its commitments to increase the number of family doctors,” according to the Chair of Doctors in Unite, Dr Jackie Applebee.

Dr Applebee said: “This crisis is so serious that, unless we see radical action, general practice and family medicine will be in terminal decline. It is for this reason that Doctors in Unite is launching this radical charter to provide hope for the profession and hope for our patients.”

She continued:

“This radical charter outlines what needs to be done to address the crisis in family medicine, linked to proposals for improving the health of our patients and our communities, as well as tackling ever growing health inequalities. These have been graphically exposed and made worse by the Covid pandemic.”

“Better health for our patients needs better quality time with doctors and other members of the primary health care team. The medical profession needs to work with the communities they serve to tackle the causes of ill health and health inequalities”.

“More time is only possible with more doctors. These doctors must be provided with contracts that will encourage them to join general practice and stay there for a fully working career. The present doctor's contract, linked to work pressures, is not allowing this to happen. This must change, and we have outlined in detail in our charter what needs to be done.”

“We are also proposing that we must get rid of the present market in health care and move to a service where patients and communities take priority.”

Dr Applebee concluded:

“At the moment we know patients, doctors and the wider NHS are getting a rotten deal from the way general practice and primary care is being delivered. The NHS is already in a highly fragile stage and part of its recovery requires a vital and vibrant primary care and general practice service.”

You can read the charter here: <https://doctorsinunite.com/2022/05/16/primary-care-and-public-health-vision-for-revitalising-primary-care/>