

Skerne Medical Group Engagement Meeting



Skerne Medical Group

Sedgefield | Fishburn | Trimdon Colliery | Trimdon Village



National Crisis impacting locally

**We are at
breaking point**

Unable to fill vacancies caused by retirement, sickness and resignations

- Situation has worsened in last 6 months despite reducing services across 4 sites

- 15500 patients spread over 4 sites is no longer sustainable

- Lack of new GP's and fewer partners to absorb workload

Practice Area



Background

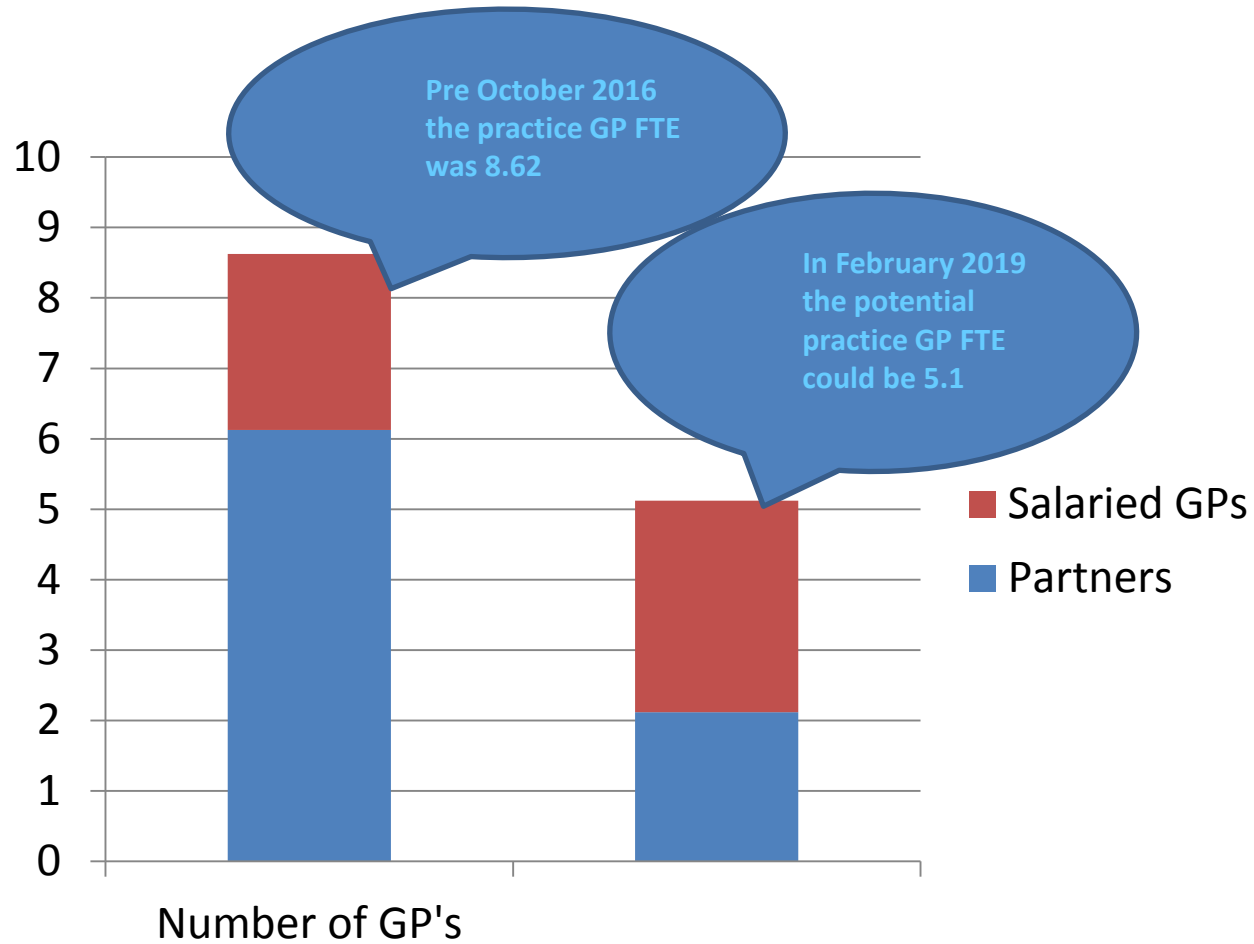
Changing face of Primary care in Skerne area

- Grew to a team of 8 Partners from 5 and employed salaried GPs to assist providing medical care however times have changed
- Significant rise in patient numbers due to housing developments across our practice area
- We are living longer and have more complex medical conditions
- A single GP can no longer expect to have skills to provide care for all conditions
- Practices now require a complex mix of clinical skills

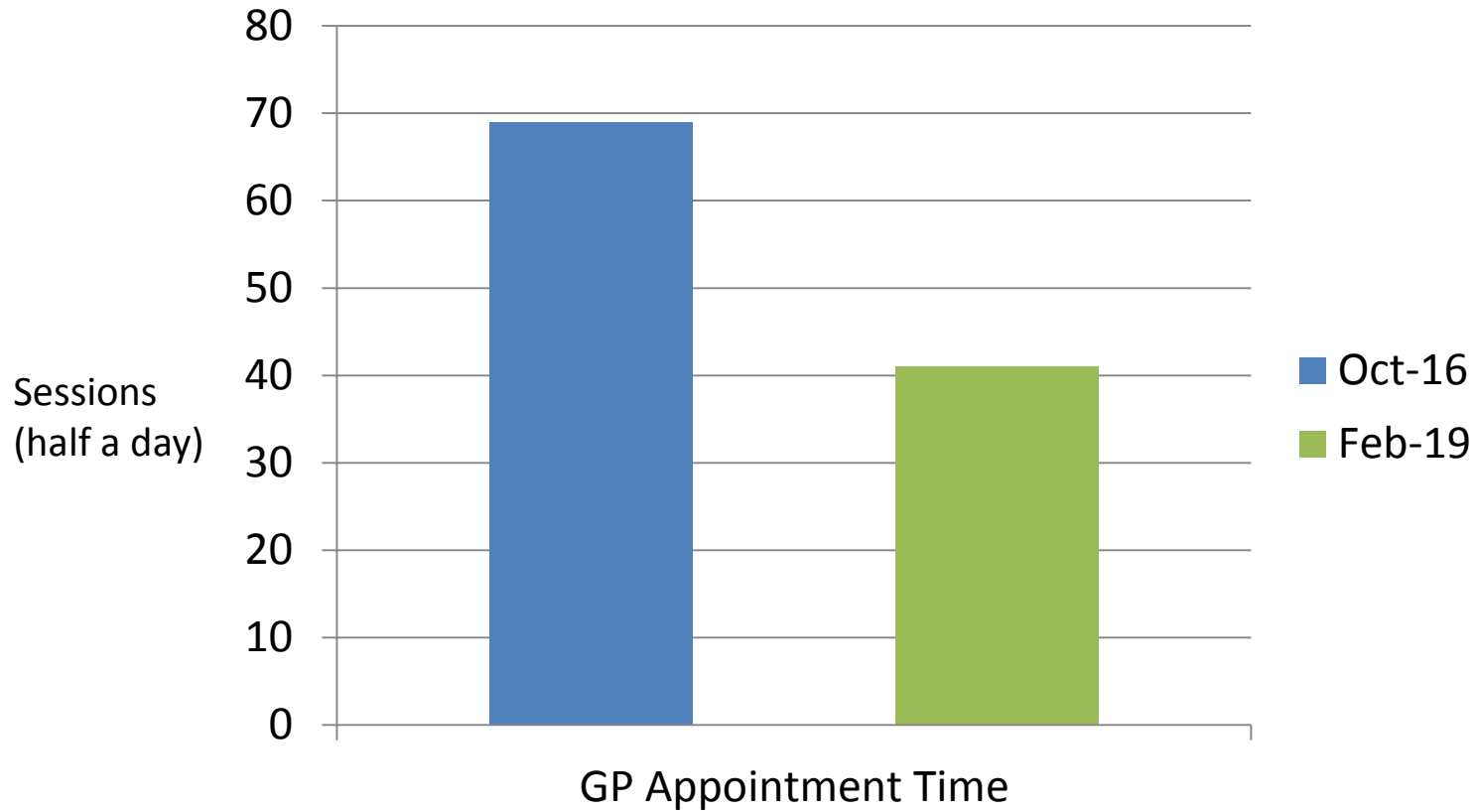
Partners and Salaried GPs



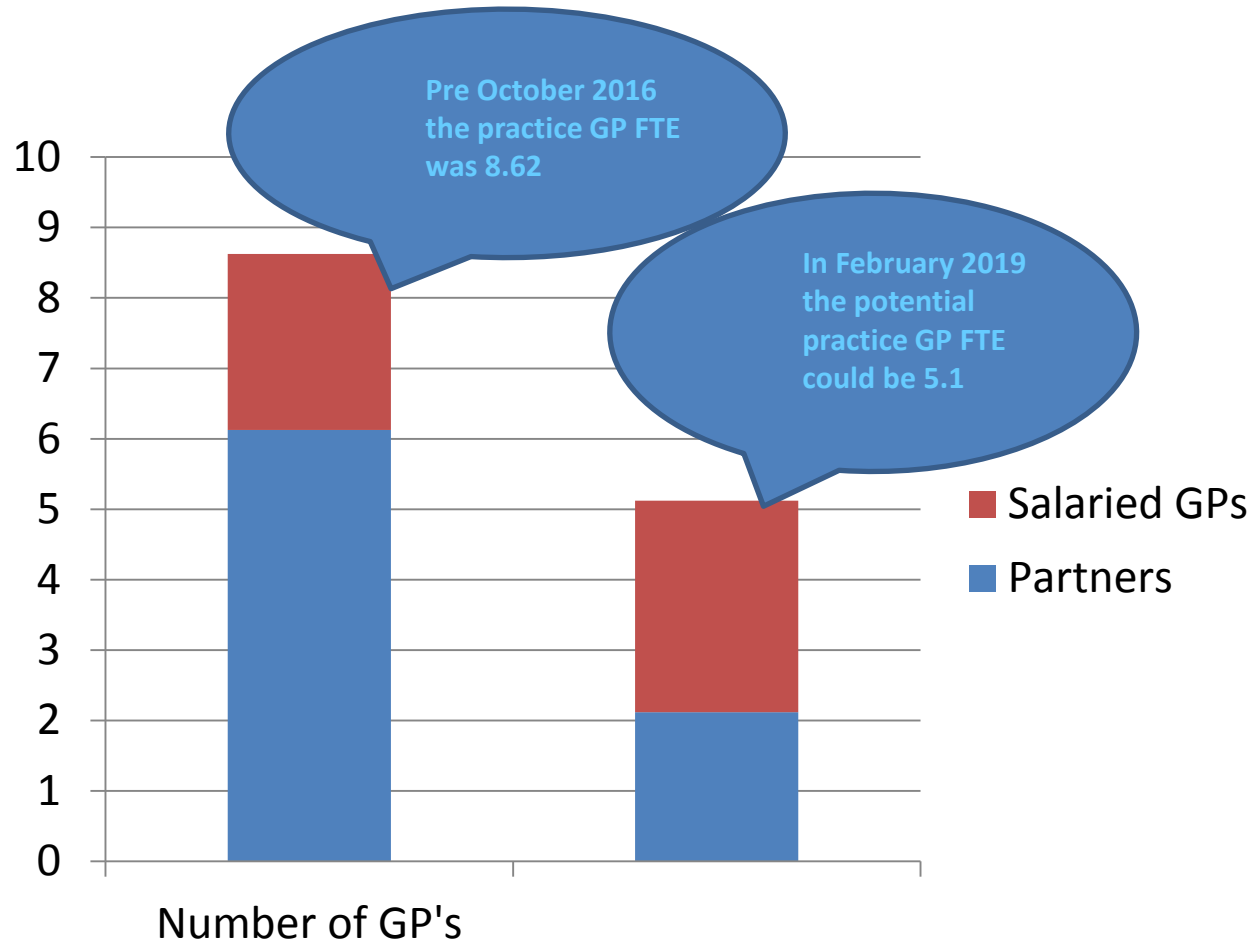
GP FTE - Reduction of 40%



GP Appointment Time – Reduction of 40%



GP FTE - Reduction of 40%



Reduction in Partners and Salaried GPs



We have to
rethink how
we provide
our medical
services to all
patients



- Our practice of 8 partners has halved to 4 and still reducing to a potential 2.5



- The Partners remain committed to providing primary care to all of our patient list



- We are struggling with the current situation and the workload effect across all of the practice team



- This cannot be sustained and we have to rethink how we provide medical services to all of you

Current Situation

It is for this reason we are engaging with you, our patients across the practice, to seek your views and ideas as to how best to shape our GP services in the short, medium and long term



Actions already taken

We have been working hard to address the issues



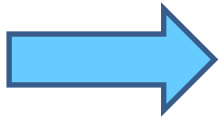
- 2 full time salaried GPs recruited with a view to Partnership.



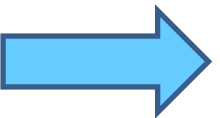
- 1 has resigned for single site Partnership and 1 reduced sessional commitment



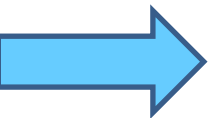
- Part time GP returning from maternity leave in Dec and new part time salaried GP starting in Nov



- Salaried GP resigned earlier in summer because of multiple sites and isolation



- Permanent GP advert on NHS jobs however no suitable response



- Continue to train, teach and mentor Junior Doctors to secure future recruitment



The need for change

Change must happen to preserve the future of medical care in our area



- Continued operation from 4 sites is causing GPs to leave us and stopping new GPs from joining us



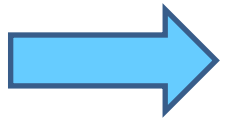
- In the short term we do not have the capacity to adequately staff our 4 sites with GPs



- In the medium to longer term, it seems a significant reduction in surgery sites will safeguard future medical care



- Options could be single site, 2 sites or shared site?



- The lack of clinical staff to provide GP services has precipitated this situation



Access to care

**Safe quality
primary care
for all of our
patients**



- Transport in rural communities. Hourly bus service running across the practice



- Volunteer Driver Schemes



- Appointment times suited to transport/continue to offer home visit service to housebound patients



- Increased appointment time availability e.g. lunchtime, no half day closing



- Any further opportunities with current sites

Summary

We need your help to work towards a future proof medical service

- We do not want to fragment further the medical service offered to our patients

- We are committed to trying to find ways to continue providing a safe quality service to our patients

- We will continue to make strenuous efforts to recruit medical staff

- The remaining Partners want to ensure there is a robust service provided for patients after we too have retired

- We feel strongly that our present model of care is not fit for the future

Short Term Options

Short Term Options



- Consider providing clinical services from only 2 sites



- Consider using a 3rd site for 'community services'



- Review if Trimdon Village can remain open from January 2019. Decision to be made at the end of the engagement period



- Consideration in reducing the practice boundary to control patient numbers

Medium to Long Term Options

Medium to Long term Options

- Review all property options for the long term sustainability of the practice
- Land availability for single site – where would this ideally be
- Land availability to build second site/cost
- Other local sites that could accommodate the practice e.g. Sedgefield Community Hospital
- Any further opportunities with current sites

Risks if no change is made to the operating model

Risks

- More GP losses – Partners and Salaried GP due to stress/sickness
- Inability to maintain a safe service
- Closing the patient list
- Alternative service provider taking on the practice list
- Formal termination of the GP contract

6 easy ways to help us to help you

Help us to
help you

- Attend appointments or cancel if no longer required

- Seek advice from Pharmacies for common ailments

- Be willing to tell our receptionists the nature of your problem, to help us guide you to the most relevant person to help

- Accept you may not see a Doctor on every occasion.

- Request on line access for ordering medication and booking appointments

- Order your medication in plenty of time