

WISEGP ACTION GROUP

Have you been paying attention to the elephant in the room?



WiseGP:
The elephant in the room

The biggest threat to the future of general practice is that key decision makers don't understand what general practice is and does.

With vital decisions to be made in the coming months about the future of the NHS, this is the problem we are tackling next at WiseGP.

We see proof of the level of misunderstanding every day. Key decision makers think general practice is simply about coordinated delivery of externally defined items of service. So, they propose new pathways, digital solutions, and staff roles – all designed to deliver more of the same, faster.

But the reality of the everyday work for both clinicians and patients in today's general practice is far removed from the items of service model established when the NHS began in 1948. By continuing to drive an items of service based understanding of clinical practice, today's healthcare is now adding to our problems. Driving burden on patients, burnout of staff, and perpetuating an NHS imbalance, which threatens its future sustainability.

At the front-line of clinical care, professionals continue to [work to deliver 'proper' general practice](#) – the whole person healthcare needed to address the problems of patient burden, staff burnout and imbalance. It's hard to do – which is why we set up [WiseGP](#) to help. It needs different ways of working - and we see growing examples of people doing that work. Across general practice, there are teams of people generating the wisdom, experience and evidence of front-line practice that shows how we can work differently and why that matters.

The seeds of innovation and change are scattered widely across our profession and practice.



But all of those seeds and that hard work will wither and fail if we don't recognise and address the elephant in the room – the ongoing misunderstanding of general practice and of advanced generalist medicine.

And that's the problem that we want to tackle with the [WiseGP](#) Action Group. We are starting a campaign to understand the wisdom of general practice.

How?

Our plan is in two parts. First, and together, we create the messages. Then we take them to the people who need to hear – from new Integrated Care Boards to Professional leads, to Government.

Plans for the WiseGP action group and beyond



Policy provocation events

(WiseGP Action Group Meetings)



In-person provocation events open to all –
healthcare professionals, the public and politicians.



Capture new ideas to create provocation videos



Take videos to the leads of ICBs, colleges, and government bodies

To create the messages, we are going to host a series of [Policy Provocation](#) events. NHSE describe such events as a way to “help unlock thinking and identify new ideas for any [situation](#) where you need some fresh thinking”.

The idea behind a Policy Provocation event is to take a big idea...maybe one that is pretty firmly fixed in peoples’ minds...and challenge it. It invites us to step back from the way we are doing things at the moment and ask, how else can we do this?

The collective challenge in the room helps us to all recognise and unlock our own assumptions and thinking – and so to create a new message, a new idea.



We then plan to capture the new thinking, new ideas – generated by you, our WiseGP community – and package them as a series of video provocations which we will actively take to the leads of ICBs, Colleges, and government bodies.

We're also applying for funding so we can hold a couple of in-person Provocation events. These will be open to all – healthcare professionals, the public, and politicians. In addition, we'll use the funding to commission animations that summarise our fundamental messages to take to key decision makers.

But first we want to invite you to join us for one of two WiseGP events, which will both launch and shape the public events that follow.

We plan to hold 2 separate events to try to meet different peoples' diaries:

1st May (7pm)

31st May (1:30pm)

Our WiseGP provocation events will consider the following statement...

Increasing Access is Harmful to Health

These events will be on-line and last one hour. This is your invitation to block the time in your diary, then we'll send you a link to sign up in our March newsletter (**sign up [here](#)**).



We'd love to hear any thoughts and questions you might have – you can email us on **wisegpcouk@gmail.com**. We're looking forward to working with you to tackle the misunderstanding and so to reclaim general practice.

Joanne and Annabelle

Further Reading

Reeve J. Tackling our workforce crisis with WiseGP. *BJGP Life*; 2023. Available from: <https://bjgplife.com/reclaiming-general-practice-tackling-our-workforce-crisis-with-wisegp/>