

- Increasing population of Northern Ireland in general and, particularly, the increasing older demographic of the NI population.
- Increasing numbers of patients living with chronic conditions and often complex co-morbidities.
- Increased workload relating to palliative care in the community.
- Increasing complexity of medications (both for prevention and treatments) which often need close monitoring (including blood monitoring) which predominantly happens in general practice.
- Increased prevalence of conditions such as mental illness, cardiovascular illness, Type 2 diabetes mellitus and dementia which are predominantly managed in primary care.

Along with:

- Difficulties obtaining and recruiting new GPs (particularly as GP Partners but also, to some extent as salaried GPs).
- More GPs opting to reduce their clinical sessions (either for work-life balance or because they are taking up other roles as “portfolio” GPs).
- Difficulties obtaining and recruiting new Practice nurses which is increasingly problematic as, like the GP workforce, there are a disproportionate number of older practice nurses who are nearing retirement.