

Interview Series - What's your perspective?

Healthwatch Wokingham Borough spends 5 minutes with senior figures in the local health and care sector, finding out their priorities, challenges and achievements.

This interview series will offer greater insights into the working of the complex local care services. The views expressed will be personal and not necessarily representative of the individuals' organisation.

Dr Amit Sharma talks with Healthwatch Wokingham Borough.....

Q: Describe your role in one sentence...

I am a GP Partner at Brookside Group Practice and Medical Director of the Wokingham GP Alliance. This means, as well as spending time seeing and treating patients, I am also involved in helping our Wokingham practices develop projects to help them stay sustainable and work with other organisations including the local hospital and community trusts, CCG and Council to improve the care patients receive.

Q: Why did you want to work in healthcare?

I have always enjoyed the problem-solving and relational aspects of medicine. I love the challenge of the unpredictability of general practice!

I am passionate about helping patients manage their health within general practice but also working with the wider system to influence how healthcare is delivered.

Q: My proudest achievement at work was...

Becoming a partner at Brookside Group Practice, the realisation of an ambition and the opportunity to more directly influence how we provide services for our patients.

Q: The most difficult thing I've dealt with at work is...

Very occasionally a patient unexpectedly develops a sudden illness which changes them physically and mentally.

Q: The biggest challenge facing the NHS is ...

Working with increasing demand with seemingly diminishing finite resources

Q: The people I work with are ...

Amazing people. Doctors, nurses, paramedics, pharmacists, patient services, administrators, managers, finance, cleaners- the whole team is amazing.

Q: I do what I do because...

I believe it can and does make a difference to people's lives.

Q: Sometimes people think that we...

Are on a golf course over lunch, working 9-5. Sadly that isn't true, and 12 hour days, filled with patients and admin are a normality for most GPs especially partners.

Q: Right now we want to...

Increase the voice and reach of general practice

Q: At work I'm always learning that...

It is better to favour humility over pride.

Q: The one thing always on my mind at work is ...

How can I serve my patients better through the work I am doing?

Q: If I could go back 10 years and meet my former self, I'd tell them...

As a Christian I would tell myself that God has a plan for me, which will be the plan I need not the plan I may necessarily think or want right now.

Q: If I could meet my future self, I'd expect them to be ...

Thankful

Q: What is the best part of your job?

Seeing others develop- whether that's patients, staff or colleagues.

Q: What is the worst part of your job?

Seeing people become seriously unwell and the effects of it.

Q: What makes you smile?

People!

Q: What keeps you awake at night?

My 3 year old son! No, generally I sleep well thankfully.