



North & South Essex
Local Medical Committees

**Essex LMC
Workforce Overview:
February 2026**



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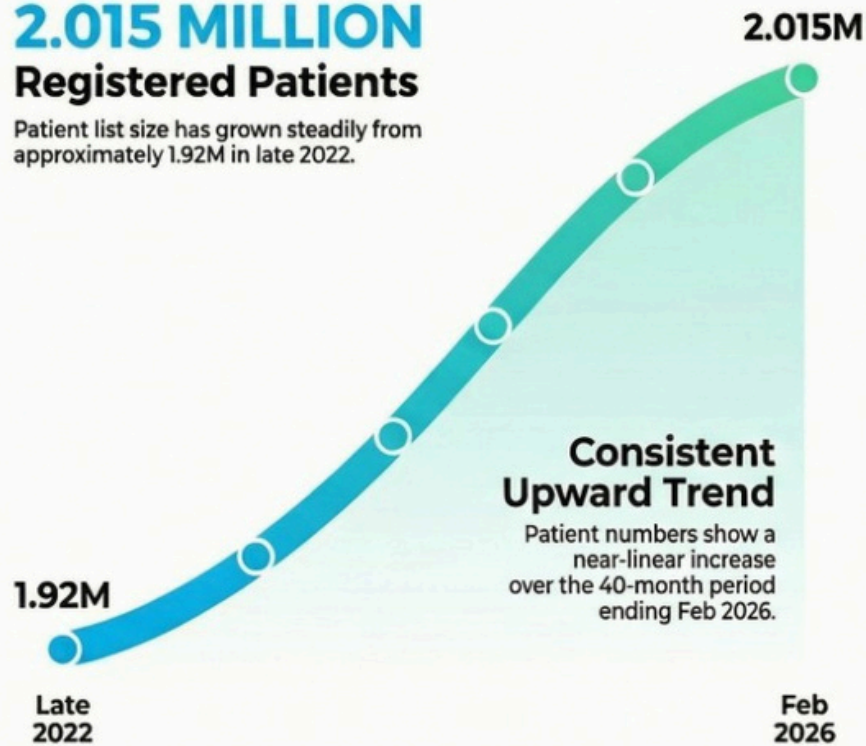
Essex GP Workforce & Patient Demand Snapshot (February 2026)

Patient Population Growth

2.015 MILLION

Registered Patients

Patient list size has grown steadily from approximately 1.92M in late 2022.



Consistent Upward Trend

Patient numbers show a near-linear increase over the 40-month period ending Feb 2026.

Workforce Composition & Trends

GP Partners in Decline

Both headcount (527) and FTE (470.9) have decreased since January 2026.



Salaried GP Roles Increasing

Salaried GP headcount rose to 454, with FTE increasing to 272.3.



743.2

TOTAL PERMANENT FTE

This represents the combined full-time equivalent of both Partners and Salaried GPs.

Snapshot highlights a continuing trend of rising patient demand contrasted against a workforce shift where GP Partner numbers are declining while Salaried GP roles are on the rise.



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Essex LMC Workforce Overview: February 2026 Analysis

Executive Summary

This briefing document provides an analysis of the primary care landscape within the Essex Local Medical Committee (LMC) area as of February 2026, based on data from the NHS England workforce dataset. The data reveals a significant, long-term increase in the registered patient list size, which has surpassed 2 million individuals. While the total permanent GP workforce (comprising Partners and Salaried GPs) shows a marginal increase in both headcount and Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) status, there is a clear structural shift in workforce composition. Specifically, the number of GP Partners is in decline, while the cohort of Salaried GPs is expanding. This transition indicates a changing model of general practice staffing within the East of England region.

Patient List Size Trends

The registered patient population within the Essex LMC has shown consistent and substantial growth over a 40-month period, as evidenced by the "List Size" trajectory from October 2022 to February 2026.

- **Historical Growth:** In October 2022, the list size stood at approximately 1,920,000 registered patients.
- **Milestone Achievement:** The population reached the 2,000,000 mark around October 2024.
- **Current Status:** As of February 2026, the number of registered patients has reached approximately 2,018,000.
- **Recent Stability:** Following a period of rapid ascent between 2023 and early 2025, the growth rate appears to have moderated slightly between October 2025 and February 2026, though it remains at its highest recorded level.

Workforce Composition and Dynamics

The workforce data for February 2026 highlights a divergence between the two primary categories of permanent GPs: Partners and Salaried employees.



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GP Partners

The data indicates a contraction in the partnership model, with both headcount and FTE figures decreasing between January and February 2026.

Metric	January 2026	February 2026	Trend
Total Headcount	529	527	Decrease (↓)
Total FTE	471.6	470.9	Decrease (↓)

Salaried GPs

In contrast to the partnership trend, the salaried GP workforce is experiencing growth. This segment is the primary driver of any increases in the total permanent workforce.

Metric	January 2026	February 2026	Trend
Total Headcount	450	454	Increase (↑)
Total FTE	268.7	272.3	Increase (↑)

Total Permanent GPs (Partner + Salaried)

When combining Partners and Salaried GPs, the total permanent workforce shows a net increase, though the growth is modest relative to the rising patient list size.

Metric	January 2026	February 2026	Trend
Headcount	979	981	Increase (↑)
FTE	740.3	743.2	Increase (↑)



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Key Insights and Conclusion

- **Shift in Employment Model:** There is a discernible trend away from the GP Partnership model toward Salaried GP roles. The increase of 4 in Salaried headcount and 3.6 in Salaried FTE from January to February 2026 more than offset the loss of 2 Partners (0.7 FTE).
- **Workforce Density:** While the total permanent GP headcount (981) and FTE (743.2) are at their highest recent levels, they must be viewed in the context of a patient population that has grown by approximately 98,000 since late 2022.
- **FTE vs. Headcount Disparity:** The data reveals a significant gap between headcount and FTE, particularly among Salaried GPs. In February 2026, 454 Salaried GPs accounted for only 272.3 FTE (approximately 0.6 FTE per GP), whereas 527 Partners accounted for 470.9 FTE (approximately 0.89 FTE per GP). This suggests that Salaried GPs in Essex are significantly more likely to work part-time or fewer clinical sessions than Partners.
- **Regional Distribution:** The Essex LMC oversight covers a wide geographic area within the East of England, with practice clusters concentrated around major hubs including Chelmsford, Colchester, Harlow, Basildon and Southend-on-Sea.

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