



GPS Healthcare

General Practice Solihull

PATIENT NEWS

Practice merger proposed

The Partners of Church Road Surgery and GPS Healthcare have been considering how best to provide safe, effective and sustainable primary care services to their patients.

“We have decided to plan to work closer together so that we can provide high quality primary care services which improve the health and social care outcomes for the population of Solihull.

We care about the services that we offer to patients and believe that by bringing the two practices together we will demonstrate our values and behaviours of caring, agile, respectful and efficient in the delivery of service improvement for all our patients.

Taking positive steps to work more closely together in a planned way enables both practices to have a sound and sustainable financial basis for continuing to invest in new staff, facilities and equipment for our patients. This may for example mean acting jointly for any future opportunities to develop new health services in the local area, which are much more likely to be successful if the practices pool their resources”.

The Partners of Church Road Surgery and GPS Healthcare

Our two practices are actively pursuing options for formalising a plan for joint working and this may involve a merger at a future date. Before deciding upon this, there will be a full consultation with everyone who may be involved – including patients, practice staff, the public and their representatives.

Communications

- Announcement to be detailed within the Solihull Observer and Birmingham Mail
- Healthwatch UK have been briefed
- PPG representative from Church Road and GPS Healthcare are informed and engaged with the proposed change
- Employees informed w/c 6th November 2017
- CQC and CCG informed

Have your say

How do you feel about the merger?

We value all patient views on the activities of our surgery . Please raise queries with your PPG representative by capturing your concerns or questions in the box provided at Reception

- QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ON PAGE 2**
- THE 8 BRANCH LOCATIONS ARE DETAILED ON PAGE 3**

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q What will this mean for me as a patient?

There will be no change to standard GP services. Over time, we aim to increase the locations from which you will be able to access primary care services. For example, if one surgery is closed (e.g. for a half-day closing) then in time you may be able to be seen at another of the surgeries instead.

Q Why is this happening now?

The demands being placed on primary care services means that practices need to look at ways to sustain the services being offered.

The practices want to take positive steps to work more closely together in a planned way since we all expect that this will be happening more generally across the NHS in the future. This allows us to pass the full benefit of technological and medical service development to all our patients and improve the quality of care available at all locations.

In addition, modern technology increasingly makes it possible for patient records to be instantly available at a range of locations.

Q Will there be a reduction in local GP services?

No. Our intention is to initially sustain the services that we offer and to progressively work towards increasing the number of services available to our patients.

Q Will any of the surgeries close?

There is no current intention to alter the location of any of the surgeries. However we do recognise that local planning developments, changes in service requirements and service demand may alter our locations over time.

Q Will staff be made redundant?

Staff will continue to be employed as they are at present. There are no plans for any staff to be made redundant. In the event of an actual merger, there will be formal consultation about how employment arrangements will be managed in future. We envisage growing opportunities for our staff to develop, to enhance their skills and continually pursue standards as achieved by GPS Healthcare's Investors in People accreditation.

Q Will it be possible for patients from one surgery to visit one of the other surgeries in future?

Not routinely in the short-term, although our aim is to make this increasingly possible in the future. Further details will be provided to patients as these plans unfold.

Q Will patients have to wait longer for appointments?

No. On the contrary helping patient's access services quicker and more locally is one of the reasons for the two practices working more closely together in future.

Q What do I do if I want more information?

Look out for further announcements through the practice websites and newsletters.

Where are the 8 locations?

- ✓ Boundary Lines of the two current practices and how they will overlap when merged.
- ✓ Locations of 8 branches of the merged practice
- ✓ Direct driving route for patients

