

Stakeholder Briefing

Closure of Horsfield Surgery, Colne and Eagle Surgery, Accrington following review

The East Lancashire Medical Services (ELMS) Federated Practice is a GP practice that currently delivers GP services across 4 sites. These include:

- Pendle Valley Mill, Yarnspinnners Primary Health Care Centre, Carr Road, Nelson.
- Brierfield Surgery, Brierfield Health Centre, Arthur Street, Brierfield.
- Horsfield Surgery, Colne Health Centre, Craddock Road, Colne.
- Eagle Surgery, Acorn Primary Care Centre, Blackburn Road, Accrington.

The current contract between East Lancashire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and East Lancashire Medical Services (ELMS) is due to come to an end on the 30th June, 2018 and at the end of any contract the CCG must undertake a review. The purpose of the review is to ensure that any future contract takes account of the health needs of local people, provides value for money and delivers the highest possible quality of care to patients.

The review found that the two GP practices – Pendle Valley Mill and Brierfield Surgery should continue to provide GP services. As a result, the CCG will be running a procurement process to secure a provider when the existing contract comes to an end.

The review concluded that the two smaller surgeries in Accrington and Colne, because of their size, were unable to provide access to the range and level of services available in some larger practices. In addition, the geographical distance between the practices does not lend itself to collaborative working, as staff are working across multiple sites, and spend time travelling between sites rather than seeing patients. This also puts pressure on the services in the larger practices, as they lose valuable clinical time to travelling.

In order to ensure timely access to a range of quality services at the two larger surgeries in Nelson and Brierfield until the re-procurement of the contract, it has been agreed that the services at the Colne and Accrington surgeries will close from the 28th February, 2018.

Patients will be able to remain registered with Pendle Valley Mill or Brierfield Surgery. However, the CCG recognise this would mean that they would have to travel to access GP services. Therefore, the CCG will be writing to patients at Horsfield and Eagle Surgeries to advise what support is available for them to register with another GP Practice in the local area.

Mark Youlton, Accountable Officer at NHS East Lancashire CCG has given a statement to the media and this is included here for your information.

“We had hoped that the four sites could be brought together to offer the benefits of a larger practice, but because of the distances between each of the sites it was clear that staff could end up spending valuable time travelling between sites or would not be equally available to all registered patients. It is definitely preferable and more efficient for doctors and nurses to be seeing patients in appointments rather than travelling around East Lancashire.



The CCG and ELMS are working with staff at the GP practices as well as patients and stakeholders to ensure that any change is as smooth as possible and patients are supported ahead of the closure date in February. The CCG is also working with neighbouring GP practices to ensure that they are supported to manage potential new registrations”.

We would be happy to continue to brief you about this development. In addition we would be grateful if you could help us by communicating these messages and any guidance we have to your constituents and stakeholders. Equally, if you hear of any concerns or suggestions from constituents regarding these proposed changes we would be more than happy to work with you to help address those.

You can provide feedback in one of the following ways:

- Post boxes available in the surgery
- By email: communications.eastlancsccg@nhs.net
- By phone: 01282 644627
- By post to: Communications and Engagement, Walshaw House, Regent Street, Nelson, BB9 8AS
- Online at: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/ELMScontract>

