

## **DR J PORTER & DR J HEALY**

The Surgery  
Station Lane  
Farnsfield  
Newark  
Notts  
NG22 8LA

## **DR SMITH & PARTNERS**

Clipstone Health Centre  
First Avenue  
Clipstone  
Mansfield  
NG21 9DA

### **Proposed merger of Clipstone Health Centre (Dr Smith & Partners) and Farnsfield Surgery (Dr Porter and Dr Healy)**

#### **Introduction**

The practices of Clipstone Health Centre (First Avenue, Clipstone, Mansfield, NG21 9DA) and Farnsfield Surgery (Newark, Notts, NG22 8LA) have submitted an application to the Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire Area Team proposing to merge the two practices. Both practices are part of the Newark and Sherwood Clinical Commissioning Group and are on the Sherwood end of the CCG.

Clipstone Health Centre has approximately 9500 patients and operates from an NHS Property Services owned Health Centre. In summer 2015 the practice will be re-locating to a new purpose built medical centre a mile down the road on Crown Farm Way. The practice has 5 GP partners which provide 4.375 Whole Time Equivalent (WTE) of GP time, working alongside 2-4 GP registrars and a GP retainer as well as an excellent nursing team who lead the management of Long Term Conditions.

Farnsfield Surgery has approximately 4800 patients and operates from a practice owned surgery. The practice has been a two handed practice for many years with Dr Porter and Dr Healy working closely together. Dr Healy is planning to retire at the end of September 2014 and they are keen to ensure that the practice is stable for the future and able to meet the ever growing demands placed on primary care. The practice also has two salaried GPs giving a total of 3 WTE of GP time.

#### **Proposal**

Clipstone Health Centre is currently a PMS practice and Farnsfield has a GMS contract. The proposal is to merge the two contracts to a GMS contract held by the newly formed "Sherwood Medical Partnership". If approval is given, this new partnership will be formed on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2014.

Initial discussions with the CCG indicate very good support for the proposal. The merger fits very well with the Primary Care Strategy which emphasises the need for practices to work

more closely together. The wider range of clinical skills and enhanced services should support reductions in referrals and non-elective admissions.

### **Impact and benefits for local population**

Full general medical services will be provided from both sites and patients will have access to all appointments at both sites. This will significantly increasing their choice of clinicians and site, though there will be no requirement or expectation on patients to travel to an alternative site if they do not wish to. Patients in Farnsfield will particularly benefit from access to an increased range of enhanced services such as extended hours, minor surgery clinics, joint injection clinics and smoking cessation advice. They will have access to these at Clipstone Health Centre and also at Farnsfield Surgery.

The long term condition management model will be nurse led, with an information gathering appointment with a health care assistant, followed by a holistic, care planning, long term condition/medication review appointment with a practice nurse. Multiple long term conditions will be reviewed in the one appointment. This model has already been successfully embedded at Clipstone Health Centre and will be gradually introduced at Farnsfield.

The merger will provide far greater security for the long term viability of the practices, particularly for Farnsfield which would struggle to survive on its own long term. The demands of registration with the Care Quality Commission, responding to rapidly changing contractual requirements and the ever increasing expectations placed on primary care cannot be met by small practices working alone. We believe this merger will safeguard the patients of Farnsfield and Clipstone from losing a local primary care centre. We are committed to keeping all that is best and most cherished about the family doctor whilst maximising the benefits found from working in a larger organisation.

### **Engagement Plans**

Both practices have good relationships with their patients and patient participation groups. Clipstone's group has been well established over many years and Farnsfield's has been setup more recently as part of the patient participation enhanced service. We will meet with these groups separately, with representatives from both practices, before publicly announcing and publishing details about the proposed merger.

Key messages include:

- Providing reassurance about ongoing levels of service on both sites

- Explaining the reasons for the merger and the additional stability this gives the practices long term
- Outlining the benefits for patients and the additional choices and services they will have access to

We plan to meet with our patient groups on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> June and Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> June to discuss the proposals. Later on the 25<sup>th</sup> we will publish information for patients online and in the practice, including opportunities to respond. We will send out text messages to patients informing them of the news and include a link to the information online. This will directly reach over 60% of our patients immediately. We will also use other avenues to increase awareness such as putting message on prescriptions, call screens, websites and on posters in the practices.

We will conduct open days on both sites to talk to patients about the plans and provide more detail as well as providing patients with avenues to feedback in writing or by email. After that initial engagement, ongoing messages answering any common questions or concerns and information about progress and implications for patients will be communicated through newsletters, websites, twitter and information in practices as well as on going communication and discussion with patient groups.

Longer term the practices will discuss with the patient groups whether they want to continue to have separate meetings, join completely or do a mixture of separate and joint meetings.

### **Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire Area Team Consideration**

The Area Team will consider this application at the Primary Care Panel on 18<sup>th</sup> July.

## Stakeholders of Clipstone Health Centre and Farnsfield Surgery

Key aims of the engagement:

1. To ensure all affected parties are aware of the change
2. To create a mechanism for receiving feedback on the merger
3. To address any key concerns raised by stakeholder and assess if these viable to be incorporated into any future plans for the practice
4. To establish a basis of concerns and aspirations on which to feedback to any stakeholder groups following the merger

<b>Stakeholder group</b>	<b>How we plan to engage with the group</b>	<b>When or how completed</b>
Registered patient population at Clipstone Health Centre	Patient Participation Group Posters in surgery Patient Call Screen Website Practice Leaflets Prescription Tokens Twitter Newsletter Text message to patients with announcement and link to further information	Ongoing from 25 <sup>th</sup> June
Registered patient population of Farnsfield Surgery	Patient Participation Group Posters in surgery Posters in local pharmacies Website Prescription Tokens Practice Leaflets Text message to patients with announcement and link to further information	Ongoing from 24 <sup>th</sup> June (evening meeting with PPG)
Practice staff	Informal consultation prior to completion regarding reasons for the merger and limited impact on staff. Contractual consultation after completion where applicable.	Ongoing with immediate effect and after the merger
Patient Participation Group of each practice	Planned meetings with each PPG introducing a clinician from the other practice	24 <sup>th</sup> and 25 <sup>th</sup> June

Nottinghamshire LMC	LMC have been involved with providing initial advice and will be kept informed	Ongoing
District Councillors in Clipstone Area - David Thompson, Sheila Soar, A.Fisher, V. Hopewell, A Norman and Julia Sherwood District Councillors in Farnsfield - Robert Bradbury, Bruce Laughton and Frank Taylor	Stakeholder letter	Planned 25 <sup>th</sup> June
Mark Spencer MP Sir Alan Meale MP	Stakeholder letter	Planned 25 <sup>th</sup> June
Health and Wellbeing Board	Stakeholder letter	Planned 25 <sup>th</sup> June
Nottinghamshire Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Paper for meeting on 23 <sup>rd</sup> June and practice representation	23 <sup>rd</sup> June
Neighbouring practices / other constituent practices of Newark and Sherwood CCG	Email from PM to all Newark and Sherwood PMs and GPs and Mansfield practices	Planned 25 <sup>th</sup> June
Healthwatch	Stakeholder letter	Planned 25 <sup>th</sup> June
Local community pharmacies and residential/nursing homes of both practices	Stakeholder letter	Planned 25 <sup>th</sup> June
Any other local health providers as applicable – County Health Partnerships CNCS Sherwood Forest Hospitals Foundation Trust	Stakeholder letters	Planned 25 <sup>th</sup> June