

## **Proposed merger of Sherwood Medical Partnership and Rainworth Surgery contracts**

In October 2014, the practices of Clipstone Health Centre (now Crown Medical Centre) and Farnsfield Surgery merged as businesses to form Sherwood Medical Partnership. In January 2015, having received support from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, and approval from the Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire Area Team, the two contracts were formally merged together.

In May 2015 Rainworth Surgery joined Sherwood Medical Partnership as a business. The senior partner was retiring at Rainworth and there were concerns about recruiting a new GP to a smaller practice where long term viability was more challenging.

Having gone through a considerable amount of change already, and with Clipstone Health Centre moving to new premises, Crown Medical Centre, it was decided not to pursue an application to merge the contracts at that time. This meant that there was no formal process to go through, though the practices did undertake a full stakeholder engagement and received support from patients at both practices.

The merging as businesses has brought a number of benefits to the practice and to patients:

- 1) Successful recruitment of additional GPs and nurses to manage retirements and increase doctor and nurse levels
- 2) Provision of routine GP and nurse appointments every Saturday morning
- 3) Shared learning and best practice

Following a successful merger as businesses, the partnership has now formally applied to merge their two contracts. This will not bring changes to service provision but will enable the practice to work more efficiently, thus improving patient care. On 17 September the partnership received support from the Primary Care Co-Commissioning panel, subject to stakeholder engagement.

Having engaged with stakeholders over the plans to merge as businesses, the plans to combine the patient lists and contracts is a natural progression. Patient Participation Groups at each location have been supportive of the plans and no significant concerns have yet been raised.

Wider stakeholder engagement plans include texting all patients, providing details online and in the surgeries and emails to other stakeholders. This is taking place in December. Early in the New Year the practice is holding engagement events at each location and will be in a position to feedback to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee when this paper is presented.