



# East Leake Medical Group

Tony Kelly Stephen Shortt Claudia Petillon Rahul Mohan Neil Fraser Imran Arshad

Associate GP: Oxana Iwanskyj

[www.elmgroupsurgeries.co.uk](http://www.elmgroupsurgeries.co.uk)

## **Briefing for the Overview Scrutiny Committee – 11<sup>th</sup> February 2014**

### Background

In March 2013, East Leake Medical Group of Dr Kelly and partners, merged with Soar Valley Surgeries (SVS) who single GP principal was Dr Patel. The practice areas of the two practices largely overlapped, except SVS extended into NW Leicestershire and in particular extended to and included Hathern.

### Proposal

The East Leake Medical Group which operates out of East Leake Health Centre and Church House Surgery, Ruddington, and which now incorporates the former Soar Valley Surgeries (SVS) of Sutton Bonington, Hathern and East Leake, is consulting on proposals to reorganise the services offered from East Leake, Sutton Bonington and Hathern.

The context of this is the retirement from practice of Dr Gopal Patel, the refurbishment of East Leake Health Centre, the practice's ambition to build a new fit for purpose Health Centre in Sutton Bonington and problems with the Soar Valley Surgeries (SVS) accommodation in East Leake and Hathern and most importantly, our desire for all our patients to benefit from:

- A greater range of locally based services; diagnostics, blood tests, ECG and spirometry,
- The full range of women's' health and contraceptive services, minor surgery physiotherapy and specialist clinics such as diabetes
- A wider range of extended hours
- Patient-led and community activities such as baby clinics, antenatal classes and support groups
- Services 'under one roof' with good parking
- Modern appropriate accommodation, fully compliant for disability access

### Dr Patel

Dr Patel retired from general practice on October 22nd after many years of service.

### East Leake Health Centre refurbishment

A major extension and refurbishment to East Leake Health Centre has been completed. The Health Centre now has a much bigger, more comfortable and private reception area, four more consulting rooms and two more health care assistant rooms. This is already making the experience of attending the health centre much more comfortable.

### Sutton Bonington Surgery

Sutton Bonington surgery currently operates from a small converted bungalow on a quiet residential road in Sutton Bonington.

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**Tel: 01509 852181 Fax: 01509 852099**

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The practice has been in discussion with the parish council in Sutton Bonington for some time, together we have been exploring opportunities to develop a modern purpose built surgery in the village. The existing accommodation is not suitable for modern general practice and we hope a new building would allow us to extend the hours of opening and offer the full range of general practice services throughout the week in Sutton Bonington. We are grateful for the support and encouragement given to us by the parish council and we hope to be able to announce our intentions very soon.

All patients of the former Soar Valley Surgeries would have access to this facility.

## Hathern and East Leake branches of Soar Valley Surgeries

Both these buildings have served SVS patients well over many years, but there can be no doubt though that they do not meet the standards expected and required for access to modern general practice. Both premises have been subject to inspection and fall below NHS standards. It is certain that neither building will pass muster when inspected as they will be during the Care Quality Commission programme of general practice inspection.

The NHS aims to achieve Estate Category B (sound, operationally safe, exhibiting minor deterioration) for its estate generally. The three Soar Valley surgeries have been rated below this standard for nearly all of the measures: overall condition, fire, health and safety and DDA compliance. Converted residential premises cannot compete with purpose built accommodation in terms of functionality and space utilisation nor on sustainability which has become a major factor. So whilst investment might be made to improve some of these factors, it is not a long term solution to the inherent problems with the buildings. It is not financially viable to invest further in premises which are simply not fit for purpose for providing 21 century health care services. Moreover, neither building is owned by the practice or NHS property Services. Thus, we are seeking to close both buildings.

## *SVS East Leake branch*

The SVS East Leake branch serves a population of 513 patients. It currently opens on a Monday afternoon and a Friday morning and also for a short session on Tuesday morning. We propose that patients who currently use the SVS East Leake branch should use the refurbished East Leake Health Centre. There are some advantages for patients:

- Patients will be able to consult the same doctors who currently work at the East Leake branch in the same manner as at present, in a more comfortable and better equipped facility, approximately 400 metres along Main Street in the heart of the village
- The Health Centre meets all regulatory standards
- There is an adjoining car park
- The Health Centre is open for 10 sessions a week.
- Patients will have access to all general practice services outlined above throughout the week.

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- Patients will be able to see the same doctors (above) or indeed any of the other (including female) doctors who work at East Leake Health Centre.
- The traditional SVS “open surgery” model is already in operation and will continue
- Other patients who prefer to make an appointment will be able to do so.

## *SVS Hathern branch*

The SVS Hathern branch serves a population of 453 patients. However, after Dr Patel retired, and after consultation with NHS England (the commissioning authority for general practice services) and in line with advice from commissioning and regulatory bodies, the practice is writing to those patients who were registered but who live (in many cases quite a distance) outside of the agreed practice area, asking them to register with a local surgery. This will reduce the number to 311 patients. Surgeries are held on a Tuesday and Friday morning and Wednesday afternoon. There is no opportunity to make the premises at Hathern compliant with the necessary standards of general practice accommodation, and for that reason we propose to close the surgery. The practice very much hopes that patients who currently use Hathern will wish to and be able to use the services at Sutton Bonington.

There is a local hourly bus service for patients who need to use public transport. This service runs between Sutton Bonington and the main A6 which is approximately 500 metres from the present surgery in Hathern and covers all the surgery opening hours. There are also several local community transport schemes for those who need assistance to travel. We respect the fact that a number will not wish to do so and may seek to register with more local practices.

## Consultation with patients

To ensure that every patient affected by the proposed changes has had an opportunity to comment, ask questions or indeed influence this proposal, the practice has written to all those affected by the proposed changes.

In addition, details of the proposal have been on display in the SVS East Leake and Hathern surgeries and two open public meetings have taken place. GPs, practice staff, patient group representatives and officers from NHS England were present to speak to anyone with any questions, concerns or comments about the new building at the following events and meetings.

A summary of feedback so far can be found in the stakeholder engagement return to NHS England. There has been no significant disquiet at all. Moreover, the intent to develop the Sutton Bonington site has been received very enthusiastically.

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## Feedback to patients

After the consultation, if the closures are approved by NHS England, we will write to those patients affected informing them and ensuring they are given sufficient notice of the closure dates.

We would anticipate that, subject to the approval above, the closures will take place by 30<sup>th</sup> June 2014.

The practice will also publicise the decision in the surgery and on the East Leake Medical Group website [www.elmgroupsurgeries.co.uk](http://www.elmgroupsurgeries.co.uk) and through local media.

## Consultation with neighbouring surgeries

Letters have been sent to neighbouring practices in Hathern, Loughborough and Shepshed.

The nearest practice in Hathern has also been contacted by email and by telephone by both a GP and the Practice Manager..

East Leake Practice Manager has also spoken to and discussed any issues with the Practice Manager at the Kegworth Practice.

## Distance to alternative providers

The distance between the current East Leake Branch and the Health Centre is about 400 metres, as mentioned above.

For Hathern Branch, for patients who live in Hathern, the nearest local surgery is about 200 metres away in Hathern. For those living further afield, there are surgeries in Shepshed, Kegworth and Loughborough which are all within a radius of approximately 3 miles of the current branch surgery, but in many cases are nearer to the patients' home addresses.

East Leake Medical Group has impressed upon those surgeries that it very much hopes that patients who currently use Hathern will wish to and be able to use the enhanced services at Sutton Bonington.

The practice does not anticipate that the numbers seeking to transfer their registration will be large. In the final analysis though, a number may well exercise their right seek to register with more local practices.

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