

## HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE BRIEFING

### Merger of Greenwood & Sneinton Family Medical Centre with Dale Surgery

#### Proposal

Greenwood & Sneinton Family Medical Centre and Dale Surgery are located approximately 450m apart on Sneinton Dale. The practices have worked together informally over many years. They currently or previously shared a practice manager, a salaried GP, a practice nurse and reception staff.

Dr Prit Chahal's retired from the Dale Surgery in March 2015 after 25 years. This change has been the catalyst for the two surgeries deciding to come together as one organisation and partnership.

The practices are requesting to do this over a two stage process, with an organisational merger of the two practices in September 2015 and then, after a premises extension to Greenwood & Sneinton Family Medical Centre has been completed, a move into one building in Summer 2016.

The Dale Surgery building has been assessed by the practice as not patient friendly and needs a significant financial investment to bring it up to the standards now expected of the health care facilities.

The newly formed organisation intends to create an extension on the side of Greenwood & Sneinton Family Medical Centre which will house twelve modern consulting rooms over 3 floors.

Nottingham City CCG and NHS England have supported the practice's plans for the redevelopment of the Greenwood & Sneinton Family Medical Centre site.

Nottingham City CCG will formally consider the proposal of the two practices to merger by the end of July 2015.

#### Overview of Practices

##### List Size

Greenwood & Sneinton Family Medical Centre - 6,632 (1/4/15)

Dale Surgery – 4,187 (1/4/15)

##### Premises

Greenwood & Sneinton Family Medical Centre: 249 Sneinton Dale, Sneinton, NG3 7DQ

Dale Surgery: 67 Sneinton Dale, Sneinton, NG2 4LG

## Local health needs

Greenwood & Sneinton Family Medical Centre and the Dale Surgery both located within the Dales Ward:

- The ward has significantly lower life expectancy (80 years for females, 75 for males) than the East Midlands average.
- It has higher levels of child poverty and older people living in poverty than the Nottingham average.
- 7.9% describe themselves as having very bad or bad health compared to the Nottingham average of 6.4% (2011 Census).
- 19.2% of residents describe have limiting long term illness or disability compared to the Nottingham average of 18.1% (2011 Census).
- 2.2 % describe themselves as providing 50 hours or more of unpaid care compared to the Nottingham average of 2.4% (2011 Census).
- 23.7% of children (Year 6) are obese, significantly higher than the national average of 19.0%.

## Impact/benefits for patients and local population

Whilst the care that patients receive at The Dale Surgery is currently good, the building is not patient-friendly and does not meet the standards expected of modern health facilities and would need a great deal of expenditure to improve the standards.

In order to accommodate the merged practice, plans are in place to create an extension on the side of Greenwood & Sneinton FMC which will house twelve modern consulting rooms over 3 floors, and will also involve the installation of a lift from the car park to all floors.

The planned merged practice has enabled Greenwood & Sneinton FMC to attract two new GPs as partners who are already working across both surgeries. The new practice will therefore have seven partners who can offer a range of services to patients from both practices.

The plan is that the new expanded premises will facilitate the opportunity to offer more integrated services and secondary care services in line with the NHS 5 year plan.

## PPG/Healthwatch stakeholder feedback

Over last six months both practices have been working with a representative group of six patients and raised the prospective merger with no adverse comments.

Extensive patient engagement will be undertaken in lead up to the closure to Dale Surgery to explain the benefits to all patients, and allay any fears.

The practices have already met with two local City Councillors (Councillor Khan & Councillor Mellen) and the local MP (Chris Leslie MP), all of whom have given enthusiastic support to the merger and extension.

Contact has been made with Healthwatch and a meeting arranged shortly.

## Risks

There is a risk that the extension may not be granted planning permission or that building costs rise so that the proposed extension does not go ahead. However this would not negate the benefits of the practice merger which is largely already being achieved through close working between the practices.

Once the merger and the extension are complete and Dale Surgery closed, there is a risk that patients may register elsewhere rather than be prepared to relocate the short distance to Greenwood & Sneinton FMC.

Although experience shows that some patients have an emotional attachment to old existing premises, this can be mitigated by extensive patient and stakeholder engagement.

## Nottingham City CCG consideration

From 1 April 2015, Nottingham City CCG took on fully delegated responsibility for the commissioning of primary medical services from NHS England.

Nottingham City CCG will consider the application of the practices to merge at the Primary Care Commissioning Panel at the end of July 2015.

In line with standard procedures for local practice mergers, Nottingham City CCG will ensure both practices complete a period of engagement with patients and stakeholders on the future arrangements for patient services to ensure full awareness of the changes.