

HEALTH SCRUTINY PANEL
30 JULY 2014
GP PRACTICE CHANGES – MERGER OF MEADOWS HEALTH CENTRE (DR RAO AND PARTNER) AND WILFORD GROVE SURGERY
REPORT OF HEAD OF DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

1. **Purpose**

- 1.1 To provide information on GP practice changes – merger between Meadows Health Centre (Dr Nao and Partner) and Wilford Grove Surgery.

2. **Action required**

- 2.1 The Committee is asked to consider the information provided.

3. **Background information**

- 3.1 NHS England Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire Area Team has advised of changes to two GP practices in Nottingham – merger of Meadows Health Centre (Dr Nao and Partner) and Wilford Grove Surgery. A report outlining the changes and plans for future arrangements is attached.
- 3.2 It is not intended that a representative of the NHS England Area Team will attend the meeting to discuss the changes outlined in the report. If a Panel member has a particular issue that they wish to raise in relation to this change they should contact Jane Garrard, Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinator as soon as possible in advance of the meeting.

4. **List of attached information**

- 4.1 The following information can be found in the appendices to this report:

Appendix 1 – Proposed merger – Update 19 June 2014 from NHS England Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire Area Team

Appendix 2 – Letter to patients (same letter to patients of both practices)

Appendix 3 – Patient engagement details

Appendix 4 – Other stakeholder engagement details

5. **Background papers, other than published works or those disclosing exempt or confidential information**

None

6. **Published documents referred to in compiling this report**

None

7. **Wards affected**

All

8. **Contact information**

Jane Garrard, Overview and Scrutiny Review Co-ordinator

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Appendix 1



Derbyshire & Nottinghamshire Area Team

Meadows Health Centre (Dr Rao) and Wilford Grove Surgery

Introduction:

Derbyshire & Nottinghamshire Area Team has received an application proposing the merger two practices Dr Rao, Meadows Health Centre (1 Bridgeway Centre, The Meadows, Nottingham, NG2 2JG) and Wilford Grove Surgery (55 Wilford Grove, The Meadows, Nottingham, NG2 2DR). Both of these practices are constituents of Nottingham City Clinical Commissioning Group.

Dr Rao's practice operates from a health centre shared with another practice (Drs Larner & Jadoon). The second practice, provided by Dr Larner & Jadoon, is not included as a party to the proposed merger.

Dr Rao's practice, in the Meadows Health Centre, and Wilford Grove Surgery are located approximately 200 yards apart in The Meadows, a large estate with high deprivation, which is situated half a mile from the city centre of Nottingham. The Meadows Health Centre also accommodates Nottingham City Care services and is close to a parade of shops

Dr Rao's practice has approximately 2,800 patients. Dr RSC Rao is senior partner of the practice following the retirement of Dr Shankar in March 2014; the practice has two doctors in total which provide 1.4 Whole Time Equivalent (WTE).

Wilford Grove Surgery has approximately 2,200 patients with one doctor. Dr Anandappa joined the practice in November 2013 and is the only doctor following the subsequent retirement of the previous doctor, Dr Hazarika.

Both practices have seen a decline in the size of their patient list size over the last few years. Within approximately half a mile of both practices is the APMS practice at Platform One run by NEMS, which opened in 2012. This has attracted many new patients and it is thought that many have been drawn from the Meadows catchment area.

The premises currently utilised by Wilford Grove Surgery is an Edwardian converted house that is not expected to meet the full standards of the Care Quality Commission standards for the provision of primary medical services in the future.

Proposal

The practices have jointly approached the NHS England Area Team to seek permission to merge the practices. The proposal requests the continuation of the on consolidated practice within the Meadows Health Centre and the closure of the Wilford Grove premise.

The practices involved are currently considering any adjustments (if any) are required to the Meadows Health Centre to accommodate the patients and staff of Wilford Grove Surgery.

In making the application for merger, the practices have outlined plans extended the services available in the Meadows Health Centre.

In considering this application, Derbyshire & Nottinghamshire Area Team have sought the view of Nottingham City Clinical Commissioning Group. Nottingham City Clinical Commissioning Group is in development for the Primary Care Strategy within the area. The Clinical Commissioning Group has indicated that this merger change would fit with the Primary Care Strategy as planned.

Impact/benefits for local population

The main benefit to patients will include a wider-range of clinicians (including a female GP for Wilford Grove patients) available at the new merged practices. Increasing the overall numbers enables greater flexibility for the practices to provide appointments across a greater part of the day and to have arrangements in-house where unplanned cover is required.

The practices propose to offer a greater range of services to all patients of the new practice. These include phlebotomy, minor surgery, spirometry and nebulisation. In addition the patients of Wilford Grove Surgery will benefit from improved facilities in the health centre as well as access to designated parking (not currently available at Wilford Grove Surgery).

The Meadows Health Centre is situated on the ground floor only which improves access for all patients particularly patients with disabilities or mobility difficulties.

Under the terms of the application, NHS England has asked the new practice to put in place increased opening on a Thursday afternoon when both practices are currently closed.

The larger practice will also offer online booking of appointments, online repeat prescriptions ordering and the Electronic Prescribing Service which will benefit patients interested in access through technology.

Wilford Grove Surgery recognises there may be an element of anxiety in some patients regarding the relocation of services. Both practices will endeavour to listen to concerns and provide assurance to patients including providing information on the benefits of the merger.

Derbyshire & Nottinghamshire Area Team Area Team consideration:

The Area Team considered this application at the Primary Care Panel on 19 June 2014. The Area Team has given its support to this application subject to the following conditions:

- Both practices are expected to complete a period of engagement with patients and stakeholders on the future arrangements for patient services to ensure full awareness of the changes.
- The practices have secured capital funding arrangements for the premises alterations within the Meadows Health Centre to accommodate the additional patients.

Appendix 2

Dear Patient

Joining together Wilford Grove Surgery(Dr Kiran Anandappa) and Meadows Health Centre(Dr Rao Rudrashetty & Dr MalathiKiran)

We are writing to you as a patient registered with Meadows Health Centre to tell you about our plans to join together **Wilford Grove Surgery** and **Meadows Health Centre**.

We are proposing to join these two practices together to form a new merged practice from 1 October 2014. We want to share with you the reasons why we think these changes will benefit patients from both practices and are also keen to hear your views on this.

The new practice believes in high quality primary care delivered by a team you can know and trust. General practice has changed so much in recent years and we hope this opportunity will allow us to give our patients and staff a bright and secured future. The practices regard this as a positive move and look forward to work together.

The merged practice will be based at Meadows Health Centre, 1 Bridge way Centre, Meadows, Nottingham, and NG22JG. We are hoping that the same staff at both the practices will continue to work in the merged practice.

As part of this process, we believe patients will benefit from...

- a. Improved access
- b. Increased appointments
- c. Facility for car parking
- d. Choice of seeing female doctor/nurse/HCA
- e. Improved services

We will be ensuring that all patients affected by the proposed changes have the chance to keep up to date with the latest news and have the opportunity to raise questions to share views with members of the practice teams. We will use the feedback we receive to consider how the new practice will work in the future. We believe it's important that everybody's views are considered, so please do take the time to let your practice team know your views.

We will be holding open sessions where you can come along and speak to members of both practices. These will take place on the following days:

- Event 1 (Wilford Grove Surgery- 20/08/14)
- Event 1 (Meadows Health Centre- 20/08/14)

To ensure we have adequate accommodation for you to attend, please confirm you are attending by contacting our practice manager- Kashmira Patel – 01159861128.

If you have any specific access requirement for these events please inform earlier so that necessary arrangements can be made. We would like to bring to your attention that we have easy access for the disabled people.

Information about the proposal will be on display in the practice waiting room and the practice team will also be able to help you with any queries.

You can have your say in a number of ways:

- Write to the doctors at Meadows Health centre, 1 Bridge way centre, Meadows, Nottingham, NG22JG
- Attend the open events: we are holding these events on the same day for your convenience.
 - Event 1
 - Event 2

Yours sincerely

Dr Rao Rudrashetty
Dr MalathiKiran

Appendix 3

Patient Engagement details:

1. Wilford Grove Surgery currently already has a practice website and are planning to inform the details regarding the merger on it: 01/08/14
2. Meadows Health Centre already has electronic notice board in the waiting area and we are planning display the information regarding the merger on it: 01/08/14
3. Both the surgeries are planning to add the information regarding merger on the repeat prescription slips: starting from 01/08/14
4. We are planning to write to the councillors/MP`s, other local practices, Health & Wellbeing board, Healthwatch, local pharmacies as soon as we get the permission for merger to go ahead from the NHS England: 28/07/14
5. We are planning to write to all the patients in the both the surgeries informing them personally regarding the merger: 01/08/14
6. We are planning to have meeting with Patient Participation Group in both the practices to inform regarding the merger. Dr Kiran Anandappa at Wiford Grove Surgery is planning to have meeting with their PPG on the 23/07/14. Dr Rao Rudrashetty and Dr MalathiKiran at Meadows Health Centre are planning to have meeting with their PPG on the 21/07/14.
7. Both the practices are planning to have open day meeting with their patients to address any questions regarding merger on 20/08/14

Appendix 4

Other Stakeholders engagement:

1. We are planning to write to the following people and make arrangements to meet: 01/08/14
 - a. Local Member of Parliament
 - b. Local Councillor
 - c. Health & Well Being Board
 - d. Neighbouring practices
 - e. Health watch
 - f. Local community pharmacies
 - g. Any other local health providers as necessary

2. We are planning to write to the post office to inform them of the merger so that the mails from Wilford Grove Surgery will be re-directed to Meadows Health Centre in the future. Date planned: 01/08/14

3. Dr Kiran Anandappa from Wilford Grove Surgery will be informing his Landlord regarding closing down of the practice. Date planned: 24/07/14