



hanway | medical practice

Dear Patient

Future Plans for Hanway Medical Centre

We are writing to let you know about our plans for Hanway Medical Centre, following the decision made by two of our Partners to retire during the course of 2020.

It has been our privilege and pleasure to look after all of our patients over the course of the last 30 years, but, regrettably, being a GP partner is not as popular a career choice as it once was and, as a result, we have struggled to recruit replacement Partners, meaning that we have had to think carefully about what is best for our patients.

After considering a number of options, we have concluded that the best approach for the practice is to undertake a merger with the Portsdown Group Practice, who currently operates from a number of surgeries across Portsmouth.

We would like to reiterate from the start, that this is not a 'done deal' – our proposal needs to be approved by NHS Portsmouth Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), which, in turn, needs to satisfy itself that the proposal is the best interests of you, our patients.

We are intending to submit our application to the CCG in March 2020.

We would also like to apologise to you if you have been troubled by the recent media reports which suggested that the practice was in danger of closing. These reports were started by an unauthorised survey conducted by a third party without the prior agreement of either the practice or the CCG.

It was always our intention to let you know our thoughts early on in the process but unfortunately, we were advised that NHS guidelines suggest no new consultations should be embarked upon in the run up to a general election and as a result, we were prevented from telling you as early as we would have liked to have done.

The face of primary care – the services that our GPs provide to you – is changing, locally and nationally, and you may be aware that there have already been a number of mergers between general practices in Portsmouth and across the country. Often, the reason for this is to ensure that practices can survive at a time when recruiting new GPs is a major issue and when we are all living longer, often with increasing and complex healthcare demands.

We have decided that our best option is to merge with the Portsdown Group Practice for a number of reasons, but mainly because it is a well-established practice within the city and will be able to support us to safeguard services for our patients. One of its main surgeries is in Kingston Crescent which is an equal distant (about half a mile) between our two existing sites in Hanway Road and Stubbington Avenue and

2 Hanway Road, Portsmouth, Hampshire PO1 4ND
T: 023 9289 4277 F: 023 9289 4261 www.hanwaygroup.co.uk

81 Stubbington Avenue, North End, Hampshire PO2 0JD
T: 023 9289 4277 F: 023 9262 1548 www.hanwaygroup.co.uk

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therefore well located to serve our patient population.

Under our proposal, Hanway patients would continue to be seen by familiar faces – as we are merging the practices but there are financial constraints around the running of sites and we will be consulting with you around plans to provide care out of the existing Portsdown surgeries rather than the Hanway buildings.

We will of course want to hear your views and any concerns you may have and will be able to share how we hope to address those issues. We have arranged 2 public meetings where you can come and find out about our proposals and ask questions; the first will be held on Wednesday 8th January 2020 at St Wilfred's Church, George Street, Portsmouth, PO1 5RT starting at 4 p.m. the second will be held on Friday 17th January 2020 at Buckland Community Centre, Malins Road, Portsmouth, PO2 7BT starting at 6.30 p.m. Portsdown Group Practice will also be holding a meeting for patients who may have questions about the impact the proposed merger could have on services at Kingston Crescent.

Whilst we acknowledge this will be a concern for some of you, the merger will offer continuity of service and a number of other advantages, which we hope that you will welcome.

As noted above, Portsdown Group Practice operates from surgeries across the city, often giving patients more choice as to where it is most convenient for them to receive their care. Due to its size, the practice is also able to offer a more comprehensive range of services than we currently can as a smaller practice.

Portsdown runs a 'gold standard' award-winning Diabetes and Respiratory service for patients suffering from these long term conditions.

It has a large team of clinicians including GPs, Nurse Practitioners, Paramedic Practitioners, Nurses, Healthcare Assistants, Clinical Pharmacists and Physician Associates. This means that patients are able to be seen more quickly by a clinician according to their specific health needs. The new arrangements would, of course, mean that Hanway patients would continue to benefit from access to our terrific team of healthcare professionals.

Portsdown offers a comprehensive telephone triage service (supervised by GP consultants), which means that their patients are helped according to their needs. This may be anything from telephone advice to same day appointments, often in a location in the city which is most suitable to the patient.

It offers e-consults, which give patients the option for an online consultation with a clinician.

All appointments at the surgery have recently increased in length to 15 minutes.

It offers extended access appointments (early morning and evenings) every weekday and on Saturday mornings.

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Kingston Crescent is well served by local transport and has a large car park, which it shares with Aldi Supermarket.

On top of this, Portsdown shares many of our ideals – both Practices are registered as “Veteran Friendly”, “Dementia Friendly” and “Learning Disability Friendly” and are equally passionate about improving the quality of care that ALL patients receive.

If you have any comments you want to make now, we have put ‘comment boxes’ in the reception area at Hanway Road, Stubbington Avenue and Kingston Crescent. Please note that you will need to provide your contact details if you want a direct response. You can also write to us at a dedicated email address handp.merger@nhs.net

We will keep you informed of any further developments on our website.

We hope this letter provides some re-assurance to you but would reiterate that taking no action is not an option for us. We couldn't continue as a practice without this merger.

Yours Sincerely

Dr Ian Morris
Senior Partner – Hanway Medical Practice

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