

## New Seaham Medical Group

Seaham Primary Care Centre  
St Johns Square, Seaham  
County Durham  
SR7 7JE

Eastlea, Eastdene Road  
Seaham  
SR7 8DY

Tel: 0191 581 7661

11<sup>th</sup> December 2018

Dear PATIENTS NAME,

### *IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT CHANGES TO NEW SEAHAM MEDICAL GROUP*

Drs Raj & Usha Dusad have run New Seaham Medical Group for many years and they are now planning their retirement. The new GPs who have been working at the surgery have now taken over the running of the practice.

Nationally it is very difficult to recruit GPs and even more difficult in the North East of England. The practice still needs to recruit GPs to provide the cover for Drs Raj & Usha Dusad's retirement next year.

We believe that the following proposed changes will help the practice to attract GPs in the future and to extend the services we can offer to patients.

### *PROPOSED CHANGES*

New Seaham Medical Group currently has two surgeries:

- Seaham Primary Care Centre (open 8am to 6pm Mon to Fri) in the centre of Seaham.
- Eastlea Surgery on Eastdene Road (open 8am to 12.30 Mon to Fri).

The proposal is to vacate Seaham Primary Care Centre and move all existing staff and services to the Eastlea Surgery, which would then extend the opening hours (8am to 6pm, Mon to Fri).

Importantly, we can confirm that there would be no redundancies, no loss of staff hours and no loss of GP or nurse time from this proposal.

### *WHAT THIS WILL MEAN FOR PATIENTS?*

We are proposing the closure of our surgery within Seaham Primary Care Centre, this will mean:

- We will NOT be asking any of our patients to leave the practice.
- All currently registered patients, including patients who are usually seen at Seaham Primary Care Centre, will be offered appointments at our Eastlea Surgery.
- We will continue to offer home visits for all our frail and housebound patients.

Partners  
Dr Armstrong      Dr Blandford  
Dr Sidhu            Dr Laloo  
Dr Mustaffa

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- Seaham Primary Care Centre will remain open and there will still be a GP Surgery based in the building as well as all other services.
- There will be no change to the area our practice covers following the move.

We recognise that not all of our patients will be willing or able to travel to Eastlea Surgery. Any patients, who choose not to remain registered with the practice, will be supported and offered advice on how to register with another practice.

### *WHY ARE THESE CHANGES BEING PROPOSED?*

1. There are increasing pressures on GP practices to deliver more for patients within a constrained budget.
  - a) Branch surgeries have significant running costs, this could be better invested in patient care.
  - b) Opening the Eastlea surgery full time will considerably improve access for patients in the area, where there are no other GP surgeries located.
2. We want to offer a rewarding and supportive environment for clinicians and admin staff working in the practice by:
  - a) Becoming a training practice for GP registrars and other clinicians.
  - b) Improving the conditions and pay for our current staff.
  - c) Making our practice an attractive option when recruiting the best candidates.
  - d) Newly qualified GPs tend to choose practices where there is immediate access to an experienced clinical team on site, moving to a single site will help us recruit new GPs.
3. We are currently planning to provide the following extra services for our patients in the Eastlea Surgery:
  - a) Dementia diagnosis service.
  - b) Job Centre Plus.
  - c) Warfarin monitoring service.
  - d) A pilot for digital technologies for patient triage.
  - e) Clinical research.

We believe that closing the site at Seaham Primary Care Centre will give the practice financial stability and security at this difficult time. It will allow the practice to create a sustainable plan for the future by recruiting good quality staff and clinicians, as well as creating opportunities to extend services to our patients.

### *HOW YOU CAN HAVE YOUR SAY?*

Before we can make any changes, we want to know your views. The results of this process will be submitted with our formal application to close our surgery at Seaham Primary Care Centre.

We would therefore be grateful if you could take the time to give us your thoughts and feedback.

Partners  
Dr Armstrong      Dr Blandford  
Dr Sidhu            Dr Laloo  
Dr Mustaffa

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To provide us with feedback, please do one of the following:

- Attend one of our public engagement events:

<b>Eastlea Community Centre</b> Stockton Rd, Seaham SR7 8DX	Tuesday the 15 <sup>th</sup> January at 6.15pm
<b>Old Scouts Social Club, Dow House</b> South Crescent, Seaham SR7 7HD	Monday the 14th January 6.15pm

*We may add more events if needed, please look out for updates in our surgery or on our website*

- Write to us

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT  
New Seaham Medical Group  
Seaham Primary Care Centre  
St Johns Square  
Seaham  
County Durham  
SR7 7JE

- Email us at [newseaham@outlook.com](mailto:newseaham@outlook.com)
- Visit our website and leave us a message - [www.newseahammedicalgroup.co.uk](http://www.newseahammedicalgroup.co.uk)
- Visit our Facebook page and leave us a message - [@newseahammedicalgroup](https://www.facebook.com/newseahammedicalgroup)
- Fill out a form at the surgery and put it in the comments box

**The engagement period runs from the 11<sup>th</sup> of December to the 5<sup>th</sup> of February 2018.**

Please be assured that your feedback will be treated confidentially where requested.

Yours sincerely,

**The Partners of New Seaham medical Group**

Please contact the surgery if you would like this information in large print

Partners  
Dr Armstrong      Dr Blandford  
Dr Sidhu            Dr Laloo  
Dr Mustaffa