

Stakeholder Briefing

Easington Healthworks

All GP practices hold a contract to deliver primary medical services to local patients in England and Wales. The majority of contracts are open-ended but there are some newer contracts in place that are time-limited. These are known as Alternative Provider Medical Services (APMS) contracts.

Easington Healthworks has one of these and after a series of extensions it is due to come to an end on 31 March 2016. In line with NHS England policy entitled, '*Managing the end of time-limited contracts for primary medical services*', NHS England, alongside NHS Durham Dales, Easington and Sedgefield Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), the organisation responsible for planning and buying local primary medical care services, has reviewed the contract and agreed a continued need for the services. However, there is a legal requirement to tender the services to ensure value for money.

There is also a national steer to ensure equitable funding amongst practices which means all practices, irrespective of the contract they hold, are to receive the same fee per patient for delivering the same core service. This procurement will deliver on this requirement and this will release resources that will be reinvested back into general practice across the area.

The CCG proposes to offer the services as a 'branch' of an existing contract for the 1585 registered patients and there will be a reduction in the hours in which the services will be delivered from the Healthworks site, but there will be the option to access services at the practice's main site.

However, there will **not be** changes to the range of services the new provider has to deliver. All GP Practices need to deliver the same primary medical services irrespective of the contract type across the whole practices.

The main reasons the CCG has decided to do this is because:

- the size of the list remains low
- patients would not be disadvantaged as the service remains but they would also be able to access services at another practice site in the area

- it supports the national strategy of larger practices to ensure sustainability and enable the commissioner and provider to explore new models of care that help address the pressures faced by General Practice currently
- it supports the developing local strategy for General Practice for the future.

Communication and Engagement

NHS Durham Dales, Easington and Sedgefield Clinical Commissioning Group has written to patients registered with this practice to reassure them that they will see services continue.

All registered patients will receive a letter explaining the procurement process together with a patient information sheet, and survey with an option to attend the following patient information session to raise any questions or provide comments.

Patient Information sessions		
	When	Venue
Session 1	Thursday 21 January 2016 6.00pm – 7.00pm	Easington Social Welfare Centre, Seaside Lane South (Back), Easington Colliery, Peterlee, County Durham, SR8 3PL
Session 2	Monday 25 January 2016 10.00am – 11.00am	Easington Social Welfare Centre, Seaside Lane South (Back), Easington Colliery, Peterlee, County Durham, SR8 3PL

As part of the procurement process, NHS Durham Dales, Easington and Sedgefield Clinical Commissioning Group would like to engage with the patient population and local stakeholders to ensure they understand what is planned, and have the opportunity for any queries to be clarified and to share with commissioners what is important to them in relation to these proposals.

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Chief Operating Officer

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