

Public consultation – summary document

The future of the GP practice at Guildhall Walk Healthcare Centre

In 2016 the contract for the GP practice at Guildhall Walk Healthcare Centre is due to run out. Such contracts cannot legally just be left in place indefinitely, and so NHS Portsmouth Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) must consider the future of the services at Guildhall Walk - both the 'walk-in' service there, and the GP practice.

So what do we want to do?



As we are contractually obliged to look again at the services at Guildhall Walk, we want to see whether positive changes can be made, particularly when thinking about our wider healthcare plans for the city.

Discussions have been underway for some time with local clinicians and organisations such as the University of Portsmouth, and patients who use the GP practice at Guildhall Walk were asked for their initial views in the summer.

Our proposal for the future

As a result of the feedback received, we are proposing that:

- Registered patients would still all have their own, dedicated practice but it would no longer be at Guildhall Walk.
- Instead patients would be registered at a new practice, in a building already funded by the NHS and near the city centre.
- The most likely options are the new Somerstown Central, or the John Pounds Centre.

How we developed this proposal

The proposal to move patients to a new practice, no longer at Guildhall Walk, has been shaped by feedback received so far. Your feedback highlighted:

- Concerns that the practice would be closed down
- That patients value the long opening hours, and the 'walk in and wait' appointments
- Concerns about getting to a practice, if it was located somewhere else
- Concerns over the future of services for vulnerable groups, and for students



Your feedback so far has helped us shape the proposal and means that:

- We have rejected an earlier option to simply let the GP practice contract end, without being replaced. That may have been possible, but it wasn't right for patients
- 'Walk in and wait' appointments will be offered by the new practice
- The new practice will have the longest-possible opening hours (although we cannot keep funding a single practice to offer a seven-day, 8am-8pm service)
- The new practice will be near the city centre
- A dedicated service for vulnerable groups will continue
- We are talking with the Portsmouth University about how best to support students.

What we want to achieve

When the Guildhall Walk contracts end in 2016, the CCG wants to secure:

Seven-day access for all: Ideally, everyone would have seven-day access to GPs now, but that would need dozens of doctors and millions of pounds – neither of which exist today. To achieve this goal we must improve access for the whole city (not just one practice).

Fairness: the NHS must be for everyone – the CCG is currently paying a premium rate so that one group of people (7,000 Guildhall Walk patients) have better access to GPs than the other 200,000 city residents. That is a basic unfairness.

Effective use of resources: We effectively 'double pay' for premises – we rent the Guildhall Walk building from private landlords, while space in public-sector city buildings is unused.

GP services which are built to last: GP services must change, anyway. Fewer doctors are becoming GPs, more services are moving out of large hospitals, and people expect to see a GP seven days a week. So, practices must work together, at a larger scale, to survive.

Find out more

This is only short summary of the proposal to relocate the current GP practice and create a single, enhanced walk-in service at St Mary's Treatment Centre. Our full consultation document is on our website.

Get involved

If you are registered at Guildhall Walk we would like your views on the proposed new practice, and any other matters you feel are important, before decisions are taken. This consultation runs for three months, so you have until **Friday 19th February 2016**, to tell us your views, either by:

- Completing the questionnaire which is being posted to you as a practice patient and returning it to **Freepost NHS PORTSMOUTH**.
- Visiting www.portsmouthccg.nhs.uk/guildhallwalk to find out more and to access the online questionnaire.

