

**Patient consultation on branch surgery sites**

**This letter has been sent to every household at which we have at least one registered patient, rather than to every patient. Please contact the Practice if you would like any additional copies.**

Elvington Medical Practice is assessing how we can deliver services most effectively, both now and in the future. In particular we are looking at how our branch sites in Dunnington and Wheldrake are used. They both need modernisation however with limited resources available to us, we want to make sure that our patients continue to have access to high quality services in suitable premises. We pride ourselves on being at the heart of our community and want our patients to let us know what you want from your GP Practice.

We need as many patients as possible to participate in this consultation so ask that you either complete and return the enclosed survey or do so online by following the link from our website www.elvingtonmedicalpractice.co.uk.

**Background**

The Practice faces three main challenges:

Ageing premises

Our two branch sites, in Dunnington and Wheldrake, were both purpose built in the 1970s to the required specifications of the time. Unfortunately they no longer conform to regulations around access, privacy and space and so both require modernisation in order to be suitable for providing primary care services in 2015 and beyond.

Changes to services

In the future NHS it is likely that many services currently being provided in hospitals will come out to the community, possibly being based in GP surgeries. This has many benefits for patients, notably that you will not have to travel as far or wait as long for some types of treatment. In order to be able to deliver such services any chosen premises will need to be of a certain specification. Neither of our branch sites currently fit that specification.

Increased patient numbers

With plans for new housing developments in and around our catchment area, we will have to accommodate more patients. To make sure the quality of care we deliver does not suffer as a result we need to build our capacity and manage the distribution of appointments carefully. This is easier to do if we have access to better facilities.

Below we have outlined our proposed solutions in more detail.

**Wheldrake**

With no other GP surgery based in the village we feel that a new surgery building on the same site would be the best way to serve our patients. This building would include two consulting rooms and two treatment rooms as well as a dispensary, so that we can hold more clinics here and be open for more hours.

Having a larger building will give us the capacity for taking on more GPs or nurses should it be required with new residential developments. Clinics that are currently held only two days a week could be held more regularly if demand increases. We might also be able to offer services in Wheldrake that we can’t at the moment, for the benefit of patients across our entire catchment area.

As we dispense from this site our patients rely upon our presence to be able to collect their prescriptions. Including a larger dispensary will help us cope with increasing demand.

The Practice has submitted an application to NHS England for funding to support the redevelopment of our surgery site in the village, as there was a submission deadline of February 16th. If successful in this funding bid, we will submit plans for approval and start the redevelopment as soon as practically possible. If unsuccessful we will have to explore other means of financing the development.

We hope that our patients support our plans but please let us know in the enclosed survey documents if you have any concerns or suggestions.

**Dunnington**

Our premises in Dunnington needs extensive work done in order for us to continue to use it as a GP surgery. The size and shape of the rooms do not fit current requirements, some structural work needs doing and accessibility to the building needs to be improved. The work required to the surgery has been estimated at a cost of £120,000.

In Dunnington we have more options available to us, and we provide different services from the surgery. In considering our options we need to take in to account our responsibilities to our patients, our staff and also the taxpayer. Specifically this includes; frequency and accessibility of appointments, quality of care provision, quality of working & consulting environment, and financial viability & sustainability.

We have identified two solutions to delivering care in Dunnington. This purpose of this consultation is to ensure that we are being diligent in our responsibility to our patients. We want to take in to account all elements of patient preference around our provision of care in Dunnington. Whilst we do have a preferred solution no decisions will be made until the consultation process has been completed.

1. **Sharing of premises with MyHealth surgery**

The MyHealth practice has a more modern surgery building in the village. We have held exploratory talks with them and there is an option for us to hold clinics in their building. These would be run by our doctors and nurses so you can continue to see the clinicians you know.

This option would allow us to continue to provide the same amount of GP and nurse appointments each week. The facilities are of a better quality and the site more centrally located within the village. We could therefore provide the level of service we do already whilst hopefully improving accessibility. We believe this would be the most effective use of NHS resources, as one building will be supported at full capacity rather than two being in partial use.

This is the Practice’s preferred option.

1. **Refurbishment of existing site**

We could invest in bringing the surgery up to the standard required by current healthcare regulations. This would involve changing the internal layout so that all the consulting rooms are larger and of a higher specification. This space would be gained from reducing the reception and office areas. This option would allow us to continue to provide the service we do already, at a higher quality, although we would not increase the number of clinics or opening hours at the branch.

There would be a cost to the practice, money which would have to be found within our current budget. This could lead to us having to find savings in some areas, and affect our investment in the Wheldrake redevelopment and other future developments. We are unlikely to receive any NHS grant funding for such a redevelopment due to the presence of another GP practice in the village.

We have considered other options however we believe that those we have looked at would lead to reduction in the service we can offer our Dunnington patients.

**Your involvement**

We have identified what we see as possible and our preferred solutions to the problems we face, although we want any decisions to be led by our patients. It is in our and your best interests to ensure that the services we deliver are shaped around the needs of our patient population. We have compiled a survey to accompany this document, which we hope covers the most important issues surrounding our plans for the future.

We hope to build a better picture of which services our patients want to access, and where. Most of all, we want your input on the future of our two branch surgery sites. We face decisions over both of them, and action needs to be taken to ensure that we can provide quality care in the future. Only once we have evaluated all survey responses and patient feedback, and consulted with local stakeholders, will we be in a position to make decisions.

We hope that with your help we can sustain the practice in spite of the challenges we face, and continue to deliver the highest quality of care for many years to come.

Please complete this and return in the envelope provided by **Monday, April 20th.** If you have any questions, concerns or suggestions in addition to this survey please contact Tom Clarke, Business Manager, at the Practice, or email VOYCCG.EMPbusiness@nhs.net

Thank you for your involvement in the future of your practice.

Dr Urszula Dudek, Dr David Lightwing, Dr Tim Longmore, Dr Nicole Kessen, Dr Jamie Ingham, Dr Aaron Brown