

Consultation Document: The formulation of a single General Practice in the Preston area from two existing practices

Introduction

Torbay Care Trust are responsible for commissioning General Practice services across Torbay for ensuring that accessible, high quality primary care services are delivered to all registered patients.

Two practices in the Preston area of Paignton have approached the Trust requesting they should be allowed to merge and form a single practice.

The practices are:

- Drs Green and partners who presently deliver services from the Pembroke House Surgery, with a current list size of 7500 patients.
- Dr Green and partners who presently deliver services from the Upper Manor Road Surgery, with a current list of 1600 patients.

(Services at both Pembroke House and Upper Manor Road are provided by the same GPs but we currently have separate contractual arrangements for each surgery.)

Historically, Upper Manor Road was a single handed GP practice. Until recently the practice was run by Dr John Bridge, who retired in September. Dr Bridge had engaged Dr David Turner to provide the services after his retirement. However, in April Dr Turner found that running the single-handed practice was not sustainable financially and approached the nearby partnership of Dr Green and partners at Pembroke House to take on his contract at Upper Manor Road. From 1st April therefore, Dr Green and partners held two contracts for the provision of primary medical services in Torbay Care Trust – a personal medical services (PMS) contract at Pembroke House Surgery and a general medical services (GMS) contract at Upper Manor Road Surgery. PMS and GMS are different ways of contracting for GP services.

The distance between the Pembroke House Surgery and Upper Manor Road Surgery is 0.6 miles. The two practices have historically worked closely together even when there were different providers and that partnership has continually developed in recent years with Pembroke House providing practical support to Upper Manor Road including cover and delivering some services for Upper Manor Road patients.

Proposed Action:

It is proposed that: -

A single contract and practice is created by merging the contracts at Pembroke House and Upper Manor Road into one contract, under a Personal Medical Services agreement.

In the short term, the practice would continue to offer services from both sites. However if the merger proposals are approved, an increasing number of services would be available from Pembroke House Surgery.

In the longer term, anticipated to be spring-summer 2010, the practice would like all services to move to a new surgery on the Concorde House site in Preston where there will be sufficient space to accommodate all staff and develop new services. The site is equi-distant between the two sites (0.3m from each).

Benefits:-

The proposed merger would create a larger and therefore more sustainable practice for the future.

Patients, particularly those currently registered with Upper Manor Road Surgery, will have access to a greater choice of General Practitioners when they want it, including access to female GPs. Patients will still be able to see their GP of choice. Consultations will be available six days a week.

Patients from Upper Manor Road Surgery will have access to additional services, e.g. an extended nursing team including health care assistants, a full range of contraceptive services and in-house rheumatology and ophthalmology services. The merged team are keen to also explore further developments for patient services. An additional full-time GP is being recruited to manage the increased workload of extra patients.

Facilities and accommodation will be improved for Upper Manor Road patients as they will have access to the range of Pembroke House facilities.

By retaining Upper Manor Road staff, patients can be reassured by seeing a familiar face at the surgery.

There are financial implications for the Care Trust although these are modest. The PMS contract price per patient is slightly higher than the GMS price per patient at Upper Manor Road. There will be the cost of an integrated clinical computing system too; however, IT investment was planned for Upper Manor Road Surgery in 2009 and the merged system costs can be offset against this.

Consultation Process

The Care Trust and practices will consult with the following parties:

- The Local Medical Committee
- The Local Pharmaceutical Committee
- Torbay Care Trust provider arm
- The Overview and Scrutiny Committee
- Local councillor(s)
- Torbay LINK
- Patients of both surgeries – this will be undertaken by placing this notice on the practice website inviting comments, waiting room posters at each site and consultation meetings with the patient groups of each surgery respectively.

This document will form the basis of the consultation with all interested parties.

The Care Trust will collate and consider all comments received from this consultation and a documented summary of the comments made will be reported to the Trust Board, together with an impact assessment of the merger and the practice proposal. All those that ask to be kept informed of the outcome will be written to following the Trust board meeting on 15th July 2009.

We are keen to hear your views on this proposal; please complete the form on the next page which can be handed in at either surgery or e-mailed/faxed/sent to the Care Trust. The consultation runs for 45 days from 20th May to 3rd July.

Response Slip – Preston practice merger

Please use this form to give us your views on what we have set out in the consultation paper. We have suggested some questions below but feel free to raise any other points that have not been answered in the consultation paper.

If you require this document in another format, please contact Primary Care Contracting on 01803 210500.

Please return by Friday 3rd July

You can hand this form in at Upper Manor Road Surgery or Pembroke House Surgery.

Or, if you prefer you can:

Post it, free of charge, to:
Freepost (The Preston Practice Merger, c/o Primary Care Contracting)
RRLE-KHTU-2GEU
Torbay Care Trust
Bay House
Nicholson Road
Torquay TQ2 7TD

E-mail it to: prestonmerger.tct@nhs.net

Fax it to: 01803 210598

If you would like to be kept informed of the outcome of the merger proposal following the Trust board meeting, please provide us with your contact details. The Trust's preferred option is email. However, if you do not have access to email, please provide us with your address.

Name
Email
Address (optional)
.....
Postcode

1. What are your views about the merger of Pembroke House Surgery and Upper Manor Road Surgery?

Agree

No opinion

Disagree

Any comments:

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2. What are your views about the full range of services being available to patients from both practices?

Agree

No opinion

Disagree

Any comments:

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3. FOR PATIENTS. Although patients will have access to both sites, they are 0.6 miles apart. Will you find this:

More convenient

About the same

Less convenient

Any comments:

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4. The practice would like to relocate to Concorde House, Preston. Please tell us if there are any specific services or facilities you would like to see at the new site.

Comments:

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5. Do you have any other comments, concerns or suggestions?

Comments:

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Thank you for your time.