

Briefing on future of South Oxford Health Centre

Dear Stakeholder

South Oxford Health Centre (SOHC) is a small practice in Lake Street, Oxford. It currently has one partner who has been under pressure and facing challenges in maintaining services due to difficulties in recruiting new doctors, increasing workloads and rising costs. The practice has a patient register of approximately 4,700 people. Despite the practice's best efforts the remaining partner, Dr Nick Wooding, has decided to end his contract to provide primary care services with effect from 31 July 2019.

South Oxford Health Centre will be open as usual throughout the notice period, and patients have been reassured that they need do nothing at this stage. They will continue to continue to receive high quality care and support until at least 31 July 2019.

Patient Participation Group:

The practice Patient Participation Group (PPG) is keen to work with Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group to explore the options for the future of services at the practice. Its representatives met with OCCG on 19 February 2019 to discuss the position. The PPG has offered to meet patients and answer questions and concerns as they come for appointments at surgery and will distribute letters from the practice outlining the decision to hand back its contract and plans for the future.

Actions by the CCG:

OCCG was made aware of the decision by Dr Wooding to hand in his contract with six months notice, effective from 1 February 2019.

OCCG has undertaken background work preparing a thorough options appraisal, looking at the commercial case, strategic vision, service needs assessment, new models of care, state of the workforce and the feedback from the PPG. This will be published on our dedicated page for South Oxford Health Centre (see below)

Summary

We continue to work with SOHC and local providers to seek a resolution to the issues and support SOHC patients.

Work continues to develop options, including a procurement process to find a new provider or look to local practice willing to provide primary care to the registered patients, running SOHC as a branch surgery. .

As OCCG works through the process, we will take the same approach to engaging with

patients as was undertaken last year at [Cogges Surgery](#) in Witney, and which was commended by patients and stakeholders alike.

Together with SOHC staff, we will continue to meet with the PPG and keep them up to date with developments. We will provide regular updates through the practice and the OCCG website which already has a dedicated page
<https://www.oxfordshireccg.nhs.uk/about-us/south-oxford-health-centre.htm>

This page will provide regular updates including Frequently Asked Questions and letters to patients as appropriate.

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February 2019



**Oxfordshire
Clinical Commissioning Group**