

## **Rottingdean Surgery Questions and Answers**

In October 2017 NHS Brighton and Hove Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) agreed a temporary reduction in the opening hours at Rottingdean Surgery in Meadow Parade. These are few questions and answers that have been raised by concerned local residents.

### **Why is Rottingdean Practice closing in the afternoons?**

The CCG have, at Saltdean and Rottingdean Medical Practice's request, given our agreement to a temporary reduction in hours. The CCG has not agreed to a closure at the Rottingdean Surgery. This decision formed part of an overall support package for the practice, which enabled it to be open to receive 500 new patients in a short period of time, following the closure of the Ridgeway Practice.

The CCG will be working closely with the practice over the coming months to ensure that the impact on the practice's patients is minimised and will be reviewing this temporary measure with the doctors by the end of March 2018.

### **Why did the Ridgeway Practice Close?**

Earlier this year, the GPs at the Ridgeway Surgery gave the CCG the required six months' notice that they were retiring from General Practice. They also indicated that they would not be making the premises available to the NHS after their retirement.

Accordingly the CCG engaged with local people and the other local practices and undertook the necessary statutory processes to determine the best way to meet the future primary health care needs of the local population. Patients told us that they wanted to be able to choose where they registered. In addition, given the location of the neighbouring practices and their capacity for new patient's aswell as considering where patients lived it was clear that we could accommodate Ridgeway Surgery patients. So the CCG made the decision at a meeting in public to disperse the patient list to the other local practices.

### **Rottingdean Practice is very convenient for me**

The CCG fully understands that the Rottingdean branch surgery is very convenient for those who live close by – especially for those who have mobility difficulties. It also is closer to the homes of some patients previously registered at Ridgeway Surgery. However, the



CCG took into account the fact that working across two sites is both time consuming and inefficient at a time of greater demand in the system. The Practice is also staying open in the mornings to see patients who find it more convenient to get to the Rottingdean Practice.

The CCG, therefore, gave its agreement to this temporary reduction in hours (**not a closure**) and the surgery will be open every morning five days a week to cater for local residents.

The decision formed part of the overall support package for the practice, which enabled it to be open to receive and respond to the needs of a larger number of new patients in a short period of time.

### **Why can't both surgeries stay open all day**

As you may be aware, there is a general national shortage of GPs and Brighton has its local share of the problem. The CCG is actively trying to recruit doctors, nurses and other clinical staff members for our practices as well as experimenting with new staffing models. However, in the immediate term, the practices in the east of our city remain very challenged in their staffing levels and this has a bearing on our decision-making.

In the light of the staffing situation at the Saltdean/Rottingdean practice and given that they took on approximately 600 new patients in a matter of weeks, the doctors at the practice asked for the CCG's agreement to reduce the number of hours that their Rottingdean branch was open (there was **no request to close** the service, just to reduce the opening hours). The CCG was mindful of the needs of local people; however, the CCG also took account of the fact that the main Saltdean site is purpose built, with full disabled access, modern facilities and several other co-located services. This, the CCG feels, offers a higher quality service than is possible at a small branch such as Meadow Parade. The CCG, therefore, gave its agreement to this temporary reduction in hours.

These kind of decisions are about achieving a balance between proximity of services, overall quality/access and the need to support hard-pressed GPs in their day-to-day work. The CCG believes that it has struck a reasonable balance in this situation, with the services at Rottingdean continuing but some of the operational pressures on the practice overall being relieved by centralising their work for a proportion of the week.

### **Further contact**

The CCG hopes that this brief Questions and Answers helps to answer your concerns, however, if you would like to discuss the points raised in further please do contact the Primary Care team, at our offices either by telephone (01273 238700) or by email [bhccg.ccg@nhs.net](mailto:bhccg.ccg@nhs.net).

