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22 August 2018

Dear Mr Yates,

Rottingdean branch surgery closure

The Saltdean and Rottingdean Medical Practice Partners informed us in May of their intention to close the Rottingdean branch surgery at the end of June, in order to continue to ensure patient and staff safety and future sustainability of the practice.

We felt that the 29th June target date was not an appropriate time frame, but worked with patients of the practice and other key stakeholders to assess the impact of the proposed closure.

Given the lack of contractual levers in the national GMS contract to control branch surgery closures, our only viable options were to support the closure and ensure patients would continue to receive care, or to refuse to support the closure - which we understand would have called into question the future of the entire contract for the Practice.

As part of the decision-making process, the Primary Care Commissioning Committee thoroughly considered a number of options and took into account the reasoning of the practice and also the concerns and feedback from patients, carers and community representatives. Having reviewed all of these factors, the Committee finally made the decision – with a degree of reluctance - on 14th August to support the branch closure. This decision was not made lightly and a full action plan has been developed to mitigate the concerns that patients raised during the engagement period.

We have written to registered patients to inform them of this decision and to reassure them that they continue to be registered patients at the Saltdean and Rottingdean Medical Practice and will still be able to receive care from their usual clinicians. Within this letter, we enclosed a transport assistance information sheet for patients who are of pension age, have disabilities



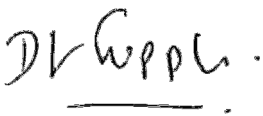
(including sensory impairment) or have caring responsibilities to make them aware of schemes that are available locally to help them, for example the Taxi Voucher Scheme.

Unfortunately once the letters to patients had been dispatched, one of the Partners became unwell at short notice and is unable to work for the next few weeks. As such, the practice informed us that they are not able to provide staff to the branch surgery every day and they have had to close it for now. They continue to try to source a locum however, and if they are successful, the practice will be in a position to re-open the branch until 31st August.

Please be assured that we continue to work with our practices to improve the resilience of local GP services and strengthen the local health system. This closure should be seen as an opportunity to support our plans to transform primary care services in the city and create sustainable services for the long-term.

If you have any comments or questions, please do not hesitate to contact Murray King, Interim Associate Director of Primary Care (murray.king@nhs.net).

Yours sincerely,



David Supple
Clinical Chair
NHS Brighton and Hove Clinical Commissioning Group