

Dear Patient

In recent years, the GPs at South Oxford Health Centre have worked hard to meet the challenges facing the surgery, many of which also affect other GP practices. These include difficulties in recruiting new doctors, an increasing workload and rising costs which have to be met from the surgery budget.

Dr Wooding has dedicated himself to keeping the practice local and has had the interests of the staff, the 4500 patients and the local community in South Oxford at the forefront of his mind as he has explored a range of options for the future of the practice. Regrettably, none of these options has so far come to fruition, and in the interest of his own health, his work/life balance and the proper care for his patients, he has decided that the current situation is unsustainable and has given notice to the Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group (OCCG) to terminate his contract to provide medical services at the surgery, as from August 1st 2019.

The surgery's Patient Participation Group has met with the Clinical Commissioning Group to explore with the CCG the full range of options that are available to ensure that GP and primary care services continue to be provided at the South Oxford Health Centre. The CCG has written to Oxfordshire GP practices to invite expressions of interest in taking over the practice as a branch surgery. Representatives of the practice Patient Participation Group will be involved in the process for assessing any proposals.

As the CCG work through the process they will be providing updates on their website including a Frequently Asked Questions page. They have set up a dedicated page for South Oxford Health Centre where information will be added. You can find this page by clicking on the link on the home page which can be found here: <https://www.oxfordshireccg.nhs.uk/>

Please note that you do not need to do anything at this stage. The practice will continue to provide services on the current basis until at least the end of July 2019. The South Oxford Health Centre will continue to operate as usual and patients will receive the same support, advice and high level of care that has always been the case.

If you have any immediate concerns or questions please contact the Patient Services Team at Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group on free phone number: 0800 052 6088 or email: patient.services@oxfordshireccg.nhs.uk or write to OCCG's Patient Services Team, Jubilee House, 5510 John Smith Drive, Oxford Business Park South, OX4 2LH.

Please be assured that we are all working together on your behalf to ensure the long term sustainability of the GP practice in Lake Street. We will write to you again when we are able to provide more information on the way forward.

Yours sincerely

Julie Dandridge

Deputy Director
Head of Primary Care and Localities
Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group

Dr Nick Wooding

GP Partner
South Oxford Health Centre

Amanda Robson

Jill McCleery

Councillor Marie Tidball

members of the Patient Participation Group