**Proposed Merger between Heathfield Surgery & Mid Downs Medical Practice**

Please find below some questions that are frequently asked by patients when Surgeries merge, and our answers given to reassure you of what this means for our patients.

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| **Question** | **Answer** |
| ***When will the merger take place?*** | It is anticipated that the merger of the two partnerships will take effect from 1st April 2023.  The full merger, including that of the contract and the clinical system is expected to be complete in May/June 2023. |
| ***Will I still be able to make an appointment to see my usual doctor, nurse, or paramedic practitioner?*** | Yes, there are no expected changes to the clinical team, with the exception of possible additional recruitment to the team. |
| ***Will I still be able to make appointments at my usual surgery?*** | Yes, all sites will remain operational. |
| ***Will my usual surgery opening times stay the same?*** | Yes there will be no change to the opening times of the sites. |
| ***Will there be changes made to the way I book appointments?*** | No, appointments will continue to be available to book via phone, in person and on-line. |
| ***Will I be able to make an appointment to see a doctor and/or nurse at another GP practice site?*** | You will have the option to travel to any of the sites if that is your choice. |
| ***Will I have to go to another GP Practice site for consultations and/or treatments?*** | It will be an option for patients who are willing to travel, however, no change to current consultations and/or treatment is anticipated. |
| ***Will any service that is currently offered by my usual surgery be removed or stopped?*** | No, with a larger clinical team we expect to be able to offer more services to our patient population. |
| ***Will there be any changes to how I access the GP out of hours service?*** | No, you will still continue to use the 111 service for out of hours needs. |
| ***Will the current arrangements that I have in place for getting my medicines stay the same?*** | Yes they will. Heathfield Surgery will continue to dispense to eligible patients and all remaning patients can continue to choose how/where they collect their medication. |
| ***Will the intended merge affect any treatment or medication I am currently receiving either at my usual surgery or any hospital?*** | No, there will no change to treatment and/or medication with either practice or hospital. |
| ***Will the new arrangement benefit GPs and the other clinical staff at the practice?*** | We believe the merger will provide both practices with resilience in the ever changing face of the NHS. A larger, stronger practice will, we believe, increase our chances of recruitment to our team. |
| ***If I have further questions I would like to ask and / or comments I would like to make, how do I do this?*** | Please email either:  Julie Acey (Mid Downs) - [sxicb](mailto:sxicb)-esx.newick@nhs.net or  Scott Lavocah (Heathfield) - sxicb-esx.patientadmin.heathfield@nhs.net |