

Our ref: TG/HB

30 January 2018

Overview and Scrutiny Board
Democratic Services
Middlesbrough Council
PO Box 503
Town Hall
Middlesbrough
TS1 9FX

Dear Sirs

Merger of Linthorpe Surgery and Oakfield Medical Practice

We wrote to you on the 16th June 2017 regarding the proposed merger of our two surgeries to ensure our future sustainability to deliver high quality and safe primary health care to our patients.

The proposed merger has been postponed due to problems merging the two computer systems, however this has now been resolved and the merger will take place on the 8th February 2018. The merger will not involve the closure of either practice, both will operate from their current premises.

Reasons to merge

The difficulties being faced across the country with GP recruitment are prompting General Practitioners to look at practice mergers and working within a larger organisation in order to secure services to patients.

Oakfield Medical Practice is operated by a single handed GP whilst Linthorpe Surgery currently has 8 GP partners. Oakfield Medical Practice has tried to recruit additional GPs without success and is subsequently using expensive locums which do not deliver consistent care for patients. Linthorpe Surgery currently has 1 WTE GP vacancy. Should the merger be successful the practices are hoping that recruitment will be more attractive and will bring continuity of care to patients.

Linthorpe Surgery currently has 14,000 patients and Oakfield Medical Practice has 3,600 patients giving a combined list size of 17,600. This increased list size should allow the potential for increased efficiency and economies of scale.

Patient Engagement

As you may recall from our previous letter patients were consulted at two engagement events held at the practices along with letters to every household and a patient survey. The main conclusions from this consultation were summarised in our communication and engagement report as follows:

P.T.O.