



## News about your local GP Practices

On 1 October 2018, Church View Surgery, Hedon Group Practice and South Holderness Medical Practice merged. Although we have kept our main surgery and branch surgery names, the practice as a whole is now known as Holderness Health.

### **Why did we merge?**

You may have heard the national news stories about the increasing pressure across all NHS services and the chronic shortage of GPs. Our area has not escaped this trend and our practices now have far fewer GPs than even 5 years ago. Our older doctors are retiring or coming up to retirement age and finding new GPs to replace them is a challenge.

Together, our practices looked into the future and decided that if we work together formally, we will have more opportunity to maintain services across the Holderness area and ensure that our patients continue to have access to local practices run by local GPs.

### **How will the merger help the situation?**

Working as one big practice, we can offer more career and development opportunities for GPs who are more likely to be attracted to work for us. We can also diversify our workforce – attracting specialist pharmacists, physiotherapists and other advanced practitioners to work as part of our team.

### **Nothing seems to have changed since October. Why is that?**

There are three steps to complete before Holderness begins to look and feel like one big practice rather than three smaller ones. These are:

- Our legal merger
- A merger of our NHS contracts
- A merger of our computer systems

The first step took place in October and we will complete the two remaining stages over the coming months, which is when you are likely to start noticing some things beginning to change. There will be some impact on patients whilst the changes to our computer systems are being implemented as we will not have access to our computers at various times and we will do our best to minimise any inconvenience. The computer system changes will take place over a six week period starting on 9 April and ending at the end of May.

## **Will you be closing any surgeries?**

We started working together to try and protect services, not to do away with them. We will be looking at all the services we provide and where we provide them to see what we can do better. If we come to the conclusion that we want to make any major changes, we have a duty to consult our patients before we do anything.

## **What changes will I notice in the future?**

Once all our practices are using the same computer system, you will become a patient of Holderness Health rather than the practice where you were originally registered. As we move towards this, we will be looking at the way we organise our appointments for both urgent and routine matters. Our aims will be:

- To maximise the number of appointments we can offer
- To make it as easy as possible for you to get an urgent appointment when you need one
- To make sure that if you have a condition that means you need regular care, you will be able to benefit from seeing the same clinicians

We are still working through the details of how we achieve this and we are not under any illusion that it will be easy. However, by using our larger team as one, we think there are better ways that we can work.

We are interested in hearing the views of patients about what would work well. If you have any ideas or comments, you can post these to us at Holderness Health, Church View Surgery, 5 Market Hill, Hedon, HU12 8JE. You can also complete a comments card available in each of our surgeries or email us at [eryccg.pppholdernesshealth@nhs.net](mailto:eryccg.pppholdernesshealth@nhs.net). Once we have developed more specific plans, we will also share these.

## **How can I find out more?**

As we develop our plans, we will put updates on our website so you can check back at any time. The website address is [www.holdernesshealth.nhs.uk](http://www.holdernesshealth.nhs.uk). You can also follow developments on our Twitter account (@HoldHealth) and Facebook page (@Holdernesshealth).

We are also planning to hold two drop-in sessions which will be open to all our patients for you to come along and raise any concerns and ask any questions. These will take place on Saturday 27 April 2019 from 8.30am – 11.30am at the following locations:

- St Nicholas' Surgery, Queen Street, Withernsea, HU19 2PZ
- Hedon Group Practice, Market Hill House, 4 Market Hill, Hedon, HU12 8JD

Patients registered at any of our practices are welcome to attend either of the above sessions.