

Consultation on Merger of Edward Street Surgery, Earby & Colne Corner Surgery

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Our Proposal

We are considering the merger of Edward Street Surgery, Earby, and Colne Corner Surgery to merge and work as one Practice with effect from 1 July 2016.

Why we are proposing this

Primary Care, and in particular general practice, is changing fast. A significant number of GPs are approaching retirement age and recruiting new GPs to the area is not easy. The NHS, like many public bodies and other sectors, is experiencing tight finances. We believe that if we are to succeed in providing high quality patient care in the future then we need to think about how we can make the most of our limited resources. This includes finance, workforce capacity and practice premises. Working as one practice rather than two will enable us to make the best use of the resources we have, and ensure a better future for our patients and staff.

What the benefits of a merger will be?

- 1) By more effectively sharing our experience and resources it would enable us to broaden the range of services available to patients at both sites, whilst still protecting continuity of care and ensuring the future viability of small practices which are otherwise 'at risk' given the recruitment challenges and the tight finances.
- 2) It would enable us to offer permanent posts to GP registrars who complete their training and become fully qualified GPs.
- 3) It would allow us to pool our staff resources and to consider a longer term workforce plan. Additionally, we create a wider skill mix than each individual practice is currently able to offer.
- 4) It would enable us to consider succession planning for existing staff and create more opportunities for training and development.
- 5) It would also allow us to share learning and experience across a wider range of GPs and clinical staff.

What changes will I see as a patient?

- Much of the service will remain the same. There will be very little change that will affect patients.
- Most of the changes will be to "back office" functions, taking place behind the scenes.
- Patients will be able to be seen at either site.
- We will be able to offer consultations at Colne Corner Surgery with a female GP, as patients have requested.
- We will be able to give consideration to developing more services in the future as part of a larger practice.

Can I have a say in this?

Yes you can. We are consulting on this for a period of 12 weeks. You can complete a questionnaire available from the reception desk, or you can do this online:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/S5CSQYF>

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact the Practice Manager from either surgery, via the reception desk.