

15 November 2013

**Responses to questions from Steven Courtney, Principal Scrutiny Officer (Leeds)**

**When will the termination come into effect?**

The contract was terminated with effect from Friday 11 October 2013. St Martin's Practice has been running the Woodlands Surgery since Monday 14 October and will continue to do so until 6 December 2013.

**What difference will patients see at the practice?**

Patients at this practice are used to having locum GPs deliver their care so at the moment things won't be feeling very different. They can still call the Woodlands Surgery number and book an appointment with a GP or nurse.

**In the immediate future, what information will patients be given when arriving for pre-planned appointments and/or seeking to make future appointments?**

All patients registered with the practice have received a letter sent to their home address. Practice staff in the Woodlands Surgery building are on hand to answer any questions that patients may have.

We are currently writing out to patients to explain that the decision has been taken to close Woodlands Surgery. Patients will be actively encouraged to register with other local GP practices in the area. There are eight other practices within a mile of Woodlands and all are taking on new patients. Any patients who haven't registered with a new GP practice by the 6 December 2013 will be allocated a new GP although they will still be able to register elsewhere if they choose to do so.

**Have local ward members been informed/ advised?**

Yes, ward members have received the same letter as Councillor Illingworth as has Fabian Hamilton, the local MP for that area.

**Have any Executive Board Members been informed/ advised?**

Councillor Lisa Mulherin has received a copy of the same letter in her role as Executive Board Member for Health and Wellbeing/Chair of Health and Wellbeing Board.

**Are there any other Leeds-based GPs receiving 'guidance' from NHS England? If so, which ones and how long have they been receiving such guidance.**

Part of NHS England's work is to monitor GP practices' compliance against their primary care contract to provide patient care. This is a wide ranging job and is not unlike other contract management functions in that there are a huge variety of issues that the primary teams deal with on a daily basis. Many practices will receive support at some point and this is an ongoing part of the contract and performance management and primary care support work that we do.

**Are there any (suggested) arrangements in place to ensure the Scrutiny Board Chair is made aware of any future potential GP performance issues across Leeds – prior to termination becoming the agreed course of action?**

Termination of a GP contract is very rare and is not a decision that is taken lightly. Our remit is to ensure that patients receive safe, effective and high quality care. We deliver this through contract management; listening to patient feedback, holding practices to account and providing targeted support to practices who need to make improvements.

We also work closely with the Care Quality Commission (CQC), the national regulatory body for healthcare providers. GP practices now have to be registered and delivering care which meets the CQC's standards.

It is not appropriate to involve scrutiny boards in ongoing contract and performance management issues because in most cases these are resolved and do not lead to any further action being taken. The relationship with GP practices is such that this contract management is in commercial confidence.

We are committed to communicating with scrutiny boards on the rare occasions that action is taken against a GP practice and to provide assurance – in partnership with CCGs - on ongoing quality of primary care services where this is requested.