

Committee: Healthier Communities and Older People Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date: 22nd October 2014

Agenda item: **Vineyard Hill Road Surgery-**

Wards: ALL

Subject: An options appraisal for the provision of Primary Medical Services

Lead officer:

Lead member: Councillor Peter McCabe, Chair of the Healthier Communities and Older People overview and scrutiny panel.

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Recommendations:

- A. For noting and comments
 - B.
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PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of the report is to provide the panel with an update on the future of Vineyard Hill GP Practice. The Practice Partners have served notice to hand in their Personal Medical Service (PMS) contract by 31st March 2015 to NHS England. This is due to both of the partners wish to retire from general practice. NHS England is going through an options appraisal process concerning patient access to Primary Medical services in the locality. To support this NHS England has started a consultation process with patients and local stakeholders, and will have in place a robust transition plan to ensure patients registered with the Practice have access to NHS Primary Medical GP services in the locality.

1 DETAILS

Vineyard Hill Road Surgery is located Merton and are a PMS contract partnership. The contractors, Dr R Jones and Dr G Provost, hold a PMS contract with a registered list size of 5416 (as of 01st July 2014).

On 25th July 2014 the partners met with David Sturgeon, Director of Primary Care (NHS England) and William Cunningham–Davis, Deputy Head of Primary Care (NHS England), to inform that the partners wished to take full retirement (Dr Jones has already taken 24 hrs retirement) and to come off the performers list. They have requested to close the business with effect from 06th February 2015. NHS England asked the partners to reconsider their position and look to provide services until 31st March 2015.

This request was accepted by the partners and on 22nd August 2014 they informed NHS England in writing. The termination of the PMS contract on 31st March 2015 has

been agreed by both parties. It has also been agreed that the practice will close their list and stop registering new patients with effect from 01st September 2014 except for family members under the age of 16.

The existing premises at 67 Vineyard Hill Road, London SW19 7JL owned by Dr Jones and Dr Provost and they wish to sell the property after March 2015. They have been very clear that under no circumstances will the premises be available for ongoing or future primary medical services provision.

1.1 OPTIONS

NHS England identified three options appraisal as follows:-

- 1- Do Nothing – this is unviable as contractors have issued a 6 month termination notice.
- 2- Procurement-of a replacement service from a new premise.
- 3- List dispersal of existing patients to neighbouring GP practices

A consultation process for patients and stakeholders has started as part of the options appraisal process. Patients will be invited to express their views. (Please refer to section 3)

2 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

NHS England did consider the possibility of a merger with a surrounding GP practice, but no interest was shown and would require the availability of existing premises which can accommodate the large number of patients.

3 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN OR PROPOSED

NHS England Proposed Consultation with stakeholders

3.1 Patients

The partners at Vineyard Hill Road Surgery have given notice on the termination of their PMS contract with effect from 31st March 2015. All registered Patients have been written to about the closure of the practice. Dr Jones has informed the staff at the practice and the Chair of the PRG.

As part of the consultation patient views will be sought via various routes; these being

- A short survey carried out by post, email, online, or at the surgery. The questionnaire can be returned to NHS England in a pre-paid envelope, via email, or to the Practice.
- Face to face. NHS England and the Practice will be holding drop-in sessions at the surgery. There will be 3 sessions during October at various times during the day to ensure patients will have the opportunity to come and discuss the options at the most convenient time for them.

The survey will be available until 30th November 2014 and the results will be analysed by NHS England.

Depending on the outcome of the patient consultation NHS England will make provisions for primary care for the patient currently registered at Vineyard Hill Road Surgery.

It should be noted that if dispersal is not the option that is agreed and that if procurement was the option chosen; this would lead to a lengthier process by approximately 9-12 months. It would also incur a large additional cost to the NHS for a two stage approach with caretaking arrangements and then contract award to a new provider. The dispersal timeline is 3 months and has a limited cost of re-provision.

Patients are being advised to consider registering with other GP practices in the area. Details of the local practices are available on NHS Choices or on a leaflet provided by NHS England. This leaflet was posted to registered patients and is also available at the practice premises. The practice will speak to those patients considered at risk and if requested ensure a safe transfer to their practice of choice in advance of closure.

The current registered list is drawn from both Merton and Wandsworth Local Authorities and also further afield. The table below shows the dispersal of patients by postcode:

Post code	COUNT
KT2	6
SW15	9
KT3	5
KT4	3
SM4	5
SW11	1
SW20	218
CR4	1
SW17	11
SW18	181
SW19	5039

NHS England will be writing further to patients to advise about the outcome of the patient consultation and to ensure they re-register either temporarily or permanently with another practices of their choice.

A third and final letter will be sent to those patients who have still not re-registered by the 31st March 2015.

3.2 CCG

Merton CCG has been consulted and supports the option of list dispersal due to the lack of premises and sufficient capacity in the area. Wandsworth CCG have also been informed as this practice is very close the Local Authority boundaries.

3.3 LMC

The LMC have been informed of the Practice decision to hand back the contract to NHS England and are supportive of the list dispersal to existing practices locally, rather than going out to full market procurement .

3.4 LOCAL NEIGHBOURING PRACTICES

There are 6 GP practices identified within a one mile radius of Vineyard Hill Road Surgery. David Sturgeon and William Cunningham-Davis visited the practices closest to Vineyard Hill Road Surgery. These practices were, Elborough Street Surgery and Southfields Group Practice in Wandsworth; and Wimbledon Village Surgery and Princes Road Surgery in Merton. All neighbouring practices have confirmed that they have capacity to register new patients should the list be dispersed. Alexandra Road Surgery which is 0.66 mile from Vineyard Hill has also been visited and has capacity.

3.5 COMMUNITY PHARMACY

NHS England has identified local Community Pharmacies close to the Practice and will be engaging with them and the Local Pharmaceutical Committee.

4 TIMETABLE

The next steps between October 2014 and March 2015 are as follow:

- The option appraisal paper for the Practice closure has been taken to the NHS England Primary Care Decision Making Group
- A Project plan has been set up to ensure the transition fort patients in order to received NHS Primary care GP Medical services.
- Patients to be advised of the closure and surrounding practices at the beginning of February 2015 with a follow up letter at the beginning of March 2015. Final letter to those not registered at the 31st March 2015.
- Work with the Practice on safe transfer of care to the new providers.

5 FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS

Premises at Vineyard Hill Road surgery will cease to be available for NHS Primary Care Medical services after 31st March 2015.

6 LEGAL AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

NHS England is the national body responsible for the establishment and maintenance of contracts with GPs throughout the whole of England. It took over the responsibility from Primary Care Trusts on the 1st April 2013. NHS England is divided into a number

of Area Teams that are responsible for geographical areas. Vineyard Hill Road Surgery falls under the responsibility of the London Area Team of NHS England.

7 HUMAN RIGHTS, EQUALITIES AND COMMUNITY COHESION IMPLICATIONS

Patient consultation is now being run and stakeholders are being informed.

8 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

None relating to this covering report.

9 RISK MANAGEMENT AND HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

The options appraisal has identified the associated risks

Do Nothing – this is unviable as contractors have issued a 6 month termination notice.

Procurement-of a replacement service from a new premise. NHS Property Services have been consulted and has confirmed that there is no local empty site or land locally owned by them. There are no other available and suitable premises currently in the area to allow the building or opening of another surgery; as it is a residential area. Also, the notice period we have been given of 6 months unfortunately does not afford adequate time to complete full market procurement with the need to obtain, apply for planning for D1 usage and fit out to achieve a fully compliant building. Therefore there would be a need to have a temporary contract in place which would be costly. (A typical procurement would take approximately 6 – 12 months). If procurement was sought and the process was unsuccessful this would result in a protracted period of uncertainty for patients and add to the temporary costs.

List dispersal of existing patients to neighbouring GP practices – this has the lowest risk option. Some patients may chose not to register which means they will not receive Primary Care Medical services. There is adequate access and capacity with the existing GP Practices in the locality.

10 APPENDICES – THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS ARE TO BE PUBLISHED WITH THIS REPORT AND FORM PART OF THE REPORT

10.1. None relating to this covering report

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