

HEALTH AND ADULT SOCIAL CARE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

19 DECEMBER 2012

LOCAL CHANGES TO PRIMARY CARE

Report from: Barbara Peacock, Director of Children and Adults

Author: Rosie Gunstone, Democratic Services Officer

Summary

This report sets out proposed changes to GP practices in Medway. The first proposal relates to Dr Raval, Dr Dabestani and Partners from Walderslade Medical Centre. The second relates to Dr Patel's surgery in Broadway in Gillingham.

1. Budget and Policy Framework

1.1 Under Chapter 4 – Rules, paragraph 22.2 (c) terms of reference for Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee has powers to review and scrutinise matters relating to the health service in the area including NHS Scrutiny.

2. Background

2.1. Appendices 1 and 2 to this report set out completed protocol templates, which relate to changes to GP surgeries in Medway.

2.2. The first proposal relates to Dr Raval, Dr Dabestani and Partners who would like to close their branch site at Walderslade Medical Centre (Princes Park), consolidating their services within their other practices.

2.3. The second proposal relates to Dr Patel's surgery in Broadway in Gillingham is that:

- From 28 February 2013, Dr Patel will join Woodlands Family Practice
- The current surgery in Broadway will close on 31 March 2013
- Dr Patel will provide six sessions a week over four days. These sessions will be split between the Gillingham and Rainham sites of the Woodlands Family Practice.
- Patients can see him at either location or any of the other GPs at Woodlands Family Practice.

3. Risk management

3.1. There are no risk implications for the Council.

4. Legal and Financial Implications

4.1. There are no legal or financial implications for the Council.

5. Recommendations

5.1. Members are asked to consider and comment on the attached reports and determine whether to agree with the assessment that the changes do not constitute a substantial variation or development.

Background papers:

None.

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MEDWAY COUNCIL

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Health Overview and Scrutiny

Health Service development or variation - assessment form

In order that the relevant Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee can assess whether it agrees that a proposed service change or development is “substantial” please provide the following details.

A brief outline of the proposal with reasons for the change and timescales

Dr Dabestani is a partner with Dr Raval, Dr Dabestani and Partners, which currently run practices in Walderslade Medical Centre (Princes Park), Walderslade Village Surgery (Robin Hood Lane), Lordswood Healthy Living Centre and Balmoral Gardens Healthy Living Centre (Gillingham). Dr Dabestani owns half of the building in Princes Park.

Dr Raval, Dr Dabestani and Partners have been working together to provide care for approximately 14,800 patients in the local area, and have developed a new identity as the “Reach Healthcare” group.

Dr Padma, a single-handed GP, currently shares the premises at Walderslade Medical Centre, Princes Park, but is not a member of Dr Raval, Dr Dabestani and Partners. Dr Padma will still continue to operate from the Princes Park site once Dr Raval, Dr Dabestani and Partners withdraw.

Proposal

Dr Raval, Dr Dabestani and Partners would like to close their branch site at Walderslade Medical Centre (Princes Park), consolidating their services within their other practices.

This site offers routine GP surgery consultations and basic nursing care, with seven clinical sessions a week.

The other sites offer a far greater range of care, including specialist equipment for monitoring heart conditions. They also have specialist clinics for

people with long-term conditions, services for women requiring long-acting reversible contraception, and other services.

Many patients who go to Princes Park for routine appointments also already use these additional services at Walderslade Village Surgery in Robin Hood Lane.

For Walderslade Medical Centre (Princes Park) patients, who chose to remain with the same practice and be seen at Walderslade Village Surgery and Lordswood Healthy Living Centre in future, the change will mean:

1. Improved access to GPs and other clinicians – far greater range of appointments and opening times
2. Improved access to a range of additional high quality clinical services

In addition, all patients will benefit from the opportunity for the practice to further develop services at its sites, which will arise as a result of this consolidation.

We believe that the proposed change can be achieved without any negative effects on the healthcare for patients currently registered at the Princes Park site.

We recognise that, as with any relocation, a small number of patients will be disadvantaged because of having to travel slightly further. Equally, many will benefit from having additional services available to them.

Extent of consultation

- (a) Have patients and the public been involved in planning and developing the proposal?
- (b) List the groups and stakeholders that have been consulted
- (c) Has there been engagement with the Medway LINK?
- (d) What has been the outcome of the consultation?
- (e) Weight given to patient, public and stakeholder views

The proposal has been discussed with the practice's Patient Participation Group this year, and it was agreed that it would be a sensible way to develop services for the area, and into the future.

It is proposed that NHS Kent and Medway, working with the Partners, undertake a **six week** engagement and information process. Patients will be contacted individually by letter, shortly after HASC have reviewed the proposal.

When writing to patients, we will be giving them an immediate point of contact to ask questions or find out more information, sending them a short questionnaire to find out their views and asking for any improvements that

could be made to the service.

Patients will also be offered opportunities to speak with NHS Kent and Medway staff about the proposed withdrawal at drop in sessions at Princes Park on:

Tuesday 8 January 2013 from 2.00pm – 5.00pm and Friday 11 January 2013 9.00am-12 noon.

Walderslade Village Surgery are offering patients the opportunity to tour their premises, if patients have not already used them, on Wednesday 9 and 16 January 6.00pm-8.00pm

During the engagement process, we will also be talking again to the practice's Patient Participation Group to get a formal response to the proposal.

The letter will also reassure patients that Dr. Raval, Dr Dabestani and Partners wish to continue to be their GP practice, offering primary care services from their other sites.

Patients will be offered the following options and advice.

1. Stay registered with Dr Raval, Dr Dabestani and Partners and access services with the same clinicians at their other sites (We have included their opening times in Appendix 1)

- **Walderslade Village Surgery (Robin Hood Lane)**, 62a Robin Hood Lane, Walderslade, Chatham, Kent, ME5 9LD
- **Lordswood Healthy Living Centre** Green Suite, Sultan Road Lordswood, Kent, ME5 8TJ
- **Balmoral Gardens Healthy Living Centre**, Gillingham, Kent, ME7 4PN

This does not require any action by Dr Raval, Dr Dabestani and Partners patients as their current registration with the Princes Park branch includes services at all sites.

2. Register with other local practices which are accepting patients.

Surgery	Distance from Walderslade Medical Centre (Princes Park)
Dr Padma , Walderslade Medical Centre Princes Avenue Chatham Kent ME5 7PQ	0 miles away (located in the same building)
Princes Park Medical Centre , Dove Close Walderslade Chatham Kent ME5 7TD	197ft away

Dr Vibhuti and Partner , The Churchill Clinic, 94 Churchill Avenue Chatham Kent ME5 0DL	0.45 miles away
DMC Walderslade Surgery , DMC Walderslade Surgery Land At Greenacres School Walderslade Road Walderslade Chatham Kent ME5 0LP	0.5 miles away
Dr Mir , 183b Wayfield Road Chatham Kent ME5 0HD	0.5 miles away
Dr Maheswaran and Partner , 52a King George Road Walderslade Chatham Kent ME5 0TT	0.8 miles away

3. Find information about other local practices accepting new patients

Patients can do this by visiting the NHS Choices website www.nhs.uk. They will need to type in their postcode into the postcode box in the “find and choose services” section and click on the “find GP practices” button.

Effect on access to services

- (a) The number of patients likely to be affected
- (b) Will a service be withdrawn from any patients?
- (c) Will new services be available to patients?
- (d) Will patients and carers experience a change in the way they access services (ie changes to travel or times of the day)?

List size and clinic sessions

The patient list distribution for each site is approximately as follows:

Walderslade Village	- 8200
Princes Park	- 1500
Lordswood	- 3300
Balmoral Gardens	- 1900

Current clinical sessions for each site are:

Walderslade Village	- 31
Princes Park	- 7
Lordswood	- 19
Balmoral Gardens	- 9

Services offered:

Currently, Dr Raval, Dr Dabestani and Partners offer routine GP surgery consultations and basic nursing care at Princes Park.

In contrast, a full range of services, including minor surgery, contraceptive coils and implants, etc are offered at the purpose built sites at Lordswood and Walderslade Village.

Furthermore, Princes Park does not have access to ECG or spirometry (for measuring breathing). These have been available at the Walderslade Village Surgery for some time. It is not feasible to move this equipment on a regular basis, so patients from Princes Park are already travelling to Walderslade Village Surgery to access such services.

There are also a number of specialised services normally operating from Walderslade Village and Lordswood, such as nurse chronic disease clinics in asthma, COPD, coronary heart disease, diabetes including insulin initiation, coil fitting, contraceptive implant insertion, joint and soft tissue injections, which would not be viable at Princes Park due to limitations in facilities and room space.

Withdrawing from Princes Park will mean improved provision of high quality clinical care by concentrating services and resources at Walderslade Village Surgery and Lordswood Healthy Living Centre. These will continue to deliver both standard and more specialist clinical services.

Capacity:

The number of Walderslade Medical practice patient's already using Walderslade Village surgery has been increasing for some time, either for routine GP and nurse appointments, or to attend one of the more specialised services such as chronic disease clinics with nurses.

Walderslade Village surgery now houses 11 GP consulting rooms and a fully accredited minor surgery nurse treatment room, as well as a secretarial suite with five workstations and a training suite. In Lordswood, there are three GP consulting rooms and one nurse treatment room, and access to the minor surgery suite in the Healthy Living Centre. So the existing GP consulting room and shared nurse treatment room/office, at Princes Park can easily be accommodated within these facilities.

More specifically, within any average week, considering current room usage, there is currently capacity for an additional 6 surgeries to be held at Walderslade Village surgery and 4 surgeries at Lordswood. This would more than compensate for the transfer of sessions from Princes Park.

Dr Dabestani and Dr Grzonka who currently work at Princes Park are happy to move to the Robin Hood Lane or Lordswood surgeries and plan to keep their same clinic dates and times.

Geographical distances:

Walderslade Medical Centre to Walderslade Village: 1.1 miles

Walderslade Medical Centre to Lordswood Healthy Living Centre: 1.8 miles

The branches at Walderslade Village surgery and Lordswood Healthy Living Centre are close enough and have capacity to be able to offer all patients at Princes Park the opportunity to continue to be registered with the practice, should they wish. Indeed, patients from Princes Park have already started to book consultations at other sites, and they already travel to Lordswood for phlebotomy, podiatry, physiotherapy and other community based services. When looking at the patient list, a number of patients who are registered at Lordswood or Walderslade Village surgery live in Princes Park, therefore suggesting that patients' access to these other sites is good from Princes Park.

Demographic assumptions

- (a) What demographic projections have been taken into account in formulating the proposals?
- (b) What are the implications for future patient flows and catchment areas for the service?

From analysing the patient list at Walderslade Medical centre we can see that patients are mostly of working age and so would benefit from using services at the Walderslade Village surgery as the practice offers evening and weekend appointments.

For housebound patients, Walderslade Village surgery and Lordswood Healthy Living centre already cover patients within the pre-existing Princes Park catchment area, so we will continue to be able to provide home visits for those in need. The registered list at Princes Park includes just 12 housebound patients who will still be provided home visits as per the practice's GMS contract.

Although the practice would be very sorry to lose any patients, there is the option for patients who would have difficulty travelling to the practice's other sites of registering with other local GP surgeries.

As previously mentioned, Dr Padma is remaining in the Walderslade Medical Centre building and will be continuing to practise there. There are also five other GP practices within one mile of Princes Park. As the area is well served by GP practices, no patients will be left without adequate healthcare.

Can you estimate the impact this will have on specific groups?

- (a) What will be the impact on children?
- (b) What will be the impact on people with disabilities?
- (c) What will be the impact on older people?
- (d) Has an equalities impact assessment been carried out of this proposal?

As the closest alternative GP practice is situated in the same building as Walderslade Medical Practice we do not anticipate any adverse impact on any group.

There are five other GP practices within one mile of Princes Park. As the area is well served by GP practices, no patients will be left without adequate healthcare provisions.

We have attached an Equality Impact Assessment which further details estimated impact on specific groups. (Appendix 2)

Choice and commissioning

- (a) Will the change generate a significant increase or decrease in demand for a service arising from patient choice, payment by results and practice based commissioning?
- (b) Have plans been made for “financial cushioning” if additional capacity is not taken up?
- (c) Is the proposal consistent with World Class Commissioning and reflected in NHS Medway commissioning plans?

This section is not applicable to the proposal.

Clinical evidence

- (a) Is there evidence to show the change will deliver the same or better clinical outcomes for patients?
- (b) Will any groups be less well off?
- (c) Will the proposal contribute to achievement of national and local priorities/targets?

It is considered that this change in provision will enable patients to access services in a higher quality environment. There is tangible evidence to show that this may improve health outcomes for patients.

There will be no groups who we would consider to be less well off as a result of these proposals.

Joint Working

- (a) How will the proposed change contribute to joint working and improved pathways of care?

This section is not applicable to the proposal.

Health inequalities

- (a) Has this proposal been created with the intention of addressing health inequalities and health improvement goals in this area?
- (b) What health inequalities will this proposal address?
- (c) What modelling or needs assessment has been done to support this?
- (d) How does this proposal reflect priorities in the JSNA?

It is not considered that the proposal will adversely affect patients.

Wider Infrastructure

- (a) What infrastructure will be available to support the redesigned or reconfigured service?
- (b) Please comment on transport implications in the context of sustainability and access

As the closest alternative GP practice is situated in the same building as Walderslade Medical Practice we do not anticipate any adverse impact on any group.

There are five other GP practices within one mile of Princes Park.

Do you believe the outlined proposal is a substantial variation or development?

We believe it is not a substantial variation or development.

The proposal to consolidate services on three sites will improve provision of high quality clinical care. Patients will have access to more specialised services at the remaining sites, with the opportunity to develop services in the future.

As the area is well served by GP practices, no patient will be left without adequate healthcare provision.

Is there any other information you feel the Committee should consider in making its decision?

APPENDIX 1 – Opening Hours for branch sites

Branch	Morning	Afternoon
Walderslade Village Surgery, Robin Hood Lane	08.30 am -12.00 noon	2pm - 6pm

Lordswood Healthy Living Centre, Sultan Road	08.30 am -12.00 noon	2pm - 6pm
Walderslade Medical Centre, Princes Park	08.30 am -12.00 noon	3pm - 6pm (Monday and Friday only) Tuesday afternoon, prescriptions and general enquiries only. Wednesday and Thursday - closed in the afternoon
Balmoral Garden, Gillingham	08.30 am - 1pm (Thursday closed from 12.00 noon)	2pm - 6pm (Monday, Wednesday, Friday only) Tuesday and Thursday – closed in the afternoon

Extended opening

Out of hours appointments are available at the Walderslade Village branch on Wednesday evenings and alternate Saturday mornings.

However, please be aware that these are intended for patients who have genuine problems making an appointment during normal opening times, and we would ask that our patients respect this to ensure that the system runs successfully for those who need it the most.

APPENDIX 2 – Equality Impact Assessment

Equality Impact Assessment

DOCUMENT NAME: Dr J K Raval, Dabestani & Partners withdrawal from Walderslade Medical Centre Princes Park

Stage 1 – initial screening

The first stage of conducting an EIA is to screen the policy to determine its relevance to the various equalities issues. This will indicate whether or not a full impact assessment is required and which issues should be considered in it. The equalities issues that you should consider in completing this screening are:

- Race
- Gender
- Gender identity
- Disability
- Religion or Belief
- Sexual orientation
- Age (including younger and older patients/staff)
- Human Rights
- Socio-economic

Aims

What are the aims of the policy?

To consolidate patient services over two surgery sites within Walderslade instead of three within the Walderslade locality. This will allow the practice to offer patients more comprehensive services in a more modern updated environment meeting the requirements of the Care Quality Commission. This policy is in keeping with and will enable us to support the Health and Wellbeing strategy for Medway as agreed by Medway CCG and Medway Health and Wellbeing Board.

Effects

What effects will the policy have on staff, patients or other stakeholders?

Are there any barriers (communication, physical access, location, sensitivity etc.) which could inhibit access to the benefits of the policy?

Some patients will have to travel a mile further for health care services. However many of them already travel to the main surgery (Walderslade Village) for other services e.g. spirometry, nursing clinics, minor surgery. Both Walderslade Village Surgery and Lordswood Healthy Living Centre have disabled access and all sites share a common IT system so communication will remain as it is and will not be affected. Walderslade Medical Centre staff will be retained and relocated to work at either of the other two surgeries within Walderslade approximately one mile from where they currently work. Positive benefits to patients will be that they will have better access to specialist nursing services and clinics, enhanced services and more integrated care.

Evidence

Is there any existing evidence of this policy area being relevant to any equalities issue?

Identify existing sources of information about the operation and outcomes of the policy, such as operational feedback (including monitoring and impact assessments)/Inspectorate and other relevant reports/complaints and litigation/relevant research publications etc. Does any of this evidence point towards relevance to any of the equalities issues?

No

Stakeholders and feedback

Describe the target group for the policy and list any other interested parties. What contact have you had with these groups?

Approximately 1450 patients who currently attend Walderslade Medical Centre for their medical services and 2 doctors and 2 part time receptionists.

The partners have discussed the proposal with their Patient Participation Group and plan to commence a six week engagement and information process with their wider patient ist shortly after the HASC meeting in December.

Do you have any feedback from stakeholders, particularly from groups representative of the various issues, that this policy is relevant to them?

The policy has been discussed at the Patient Participation Group who were in agreement that it made sense to concentrate services at two sites.

Impact

Could the policy have a differential impact on staff, patients, or other stakeholders on the basis of any of the equalities issues?

No

Summary of relevance to equalities issues

Equality Strand	Negative Impact Yes/No	Positive Impact Yes/No	Rationale
Race	no	no	
Gender	no	no	

Gender identity	no	no
Disability	no	no
Religion or Belief	no	no
Sexual orientation	no	no
Age (younger patients/staff)	no	no
Age (older patients/staff)	no	no
Human Rights	no	no
Socio-economic status	no	no

If you have answered “Yes” to negative impact for any of the equality strands and the impact is either high or medium, a full impact assessment must be completed, unless it can be justified that it is not significant (low) or that to do a full EIA is not a proportionate response. The justification for not completing a full EIA must be provided to the EIA Sub Group. Please proceed to STAGE 2 of the document.

If a full EIA is not necessary, what is your justification for this? Any mitigation actions that have been taken please record here.

There are no changes in the service apart from the location. The proposed locations are already operating as surgeries.

Monitoring and review arrangements

Describe the systems that you are putting in place to manage the policy and to monitor its operation and outcomes in terms of the various equalities issues.

There will be ongoing assessment of the impact of the location change through the contract performance monitoring system. There will also be further consultation that will identify the views of both clients and staff. Patient satisfaction is measured yearly by the service provider and is reported to commissioners.

State when a review will take place and how it will be conducted.

Any aspect of Equality that has an impact on client care is a feature of the clinical governance process that services operate within.

	Name (in CAPS) and signature	Date
Policy lead	<i>N. Nathan</i>	3/12/2012
Director	Dr N K Nathan	

MEDWAY COUNCIL

Gun Wharf
 Dock Road
 Chatham ME4 4TR



Health Overview and Scrutiny

Health Service development or variation - assessment form

In order that the relevant Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee can assess whether it agrees that a proposed service change or development is “substantial” please provide the following details.

A brief outline of the proposal with reasons for the change and timescales

Background

Dr Patel’s practice is a single-handed practice with around 1650 patients on Broadway in Gillingham. The premises are residential, and there is difficulty in expanding or modifying the building because of planning permission restrictions. Dr Patel plans to retire in three to five years’ time and therefore, after careful consideration, he is proposing to close the premises on Broadway and merge his practice with nearby Woodlands Family Practice in order to give his patients the opportunity for long-term stability of care.

This would enable him to see patients at the Gillingham or Rainham branches of Woodlands Family Practice. Dr Patel’s list comprises patients from both Gillingham and Rainham, so this would allow them more flexibility and better meet their needs. Dr Patel’s current surgery on Broadway is just over a mile from Woodlands Family Practice’s Gillingham site.

Dr Patel feels there would be many benefits for patients once the merger is completed, including having a choice of female and male GPs and purpose-built facilities, rather than being in a single handed practice with access to only a male GP. Patients would also have access to specialist nurses, phlebotomy services and longer opening hours. In addition, merging with Woodlands Family Practice would also mean Dr Patel would be able to spend less time on administration.

All Dr Patel’s current staff are near retirement age and say they plan to retire after the merger. If any staff do feel they would like to stay on, the practice manager at Woodlands Family Practice will undertake a review to see where those members of staff would fit into the Woodlands’ structure.

Closing the premises on Broadway will not adversely affect GP services in the

local area. There are a number of other GP surgeries in the surrounding area, one of which is 0.2 miles from the Broadway surgery.

The proposal is that:

- From 28 February 2013, Dr Patel will join Woodlands Family Practice
- The current surgery in Broadway will close on 1 March 2013
- Dr Patel will provide six sessions a week over four days. These sessions will be split between the Gillingham and Rainham sites of the Woodlands Family Practice.
- Patients can see him at either location or any of the other GPs at Woodlands Family Practice.

Benefits for the patients

As the site is currently in a residential building, and the practice is single handed, the proposed merger would give several benefits:

- Continued care from purpose-built premises.
- Access to specialist nurse services
- Access to a choice of female and male GPs and support
- Access to other specialist services provided by Woodlands, including full family planning, minor surgery, in-house counselling and phlebotomy (blood taking) services
- Access to sessions over two sites, to support the demographics of the patients registered with Dr Patel
- Access to early and late surgeries at both sites
- Access to a large admin team.

The proposal is to commence a two month patient information and engagement exercise following the meeting with HASC. Following this, Dr Patel's practice will merge at the end of February 2013

Extent of consultation

- (a) Have patients and the public been involved in planning and developing the proposal?
- (b) List the groups and stakeholders that have been consulted
- (c) Has there been engagement with the Medway LINK?
- (d) What has been the outcome of the consultation?
- (e) Weight given to patient, public and stakeholder views

It is proposed that NHS Kent and Medway undertake a **two month** engagement and information process from **20 December to 13 February 2013**. Patients will be contacted individually shortly after HASC have reviewed the proposal.

Patients will be the following options and advice.

- 1. Continue to access Dr Patel at Woodlands Family Practice at the following sites:**

- **Gillingham** – Gillingham Medical Centre, Woodlands Road, Gillingham, Kent, ME72BU
- **Rainham** – Green zone, 103-107 High Street, Rainham, Kent, ME8 8AA

This does not require any action by Dr Patel's patients as their current registration will transfer to Woodlands Family Practice.

2. Register with other local practices who are accepting patients.

Site	Distance from Dr Patel's surgery
Eastcourt Lane surgery , 52 Eastcourt Lane Gillingham Kent ME8 6EY	0.2 miles away
Dr Lakshman , The Medical Centre 4a Waltham Road Gillingham Kent ME8 6XQ	0.8 miles away
Dr Dharan and Partners , Malvern Road Surgery, 90-92 Malvern Road, Gillingham, Kent, ME7 4BB	0.8 miles away
Dr Silhi , 511 Canterbury Street, Gillingham, ME7 5LH	1.4 miles away
Dr Bhatia , 13 Pump Lane, Rainham Mark, Gillingham Kent ME8 7AA	1.7 miles away
Dr Jana , 151, Napier Road, Gillingham, ME7 4HH	1.8 miles away

3. Find information about other local practices accepting new patients

Patients can do this by visiting the NHS Choices website www.nhs.uk. They will need to type in their postcode into the postcode box in the "find and choose services" section and click on the "find GP practices" button.

Other opportunities for patients to have their say

When writing to patients, they will be offered the opportunity to speak with NHS Kent and Medway staff about the proposed merger at drop in sessions on:

Thursday, 3 January 2013 from 2:00pm – 3:00pm

Friday, 4 January 2013 from 1:00pm – 2:00pm

Monday, 7 January 2013 from 6:00pm – 7:00pm.

These sessions will not be formal, structured meetings and patients who have any concerns will be encouraged to drop in during the times shown.

Woodlands Family Practice have also arranged the following drop in sessions for patients to look around their Gillingham branch to allow Dr Patel's patients to look around:

Monday, 7 January 2013 from 4:00pm – 8:00pm

Wednesday, 9 January 2013 from 4:00pm – 6:00pm

Tuesday, 15 January 2013 from 4:00pm – 6:00pm

Friday, 18 January 2013 from 4:00pm – 6:00pm.

Effect on access to services

- (a) The number of patients likely to be affected
- (b) Will a service be withdrawn from any patients?
- (c) Will new services be available to patients?
- (d) Will patients and carers experience a change in the way they access services (ie changes to travel or times of the day)?

Proposed alternative arrangement for service

Patients continue to access Dr Patel from either Woodlands Family Practice site in Gillingham or Rainham, until he retires in approximately three to five years, when patients can either stay registered at Woodlands Family Practice or register with another local practice.

Should patients feel they do not want to move into a large multi-GP practice, they have the choice of joining two single handed GP surgeries in Gillingham (Dr Silhi and Dr Jana). Listed below are the closest practices to the Broadway surgery.

Site	Distance from Dr Patel's surgery
Eastcourt Lane surgery , 52 Eastcourt Lane Gillingham Kent ME8 6EY	0.2 miles away
Dr Lakshman , The Medical Centre 4a Waltham Road Gillingham Kent ME8 6XQ	0.8 miles away
Dr Dharan and Partners , Malvern Road Surgery, 90-92 Malvern Road, Gillingham, Kent, ME7 4BB	0.8 miles away
Dr Silhi , 511 Canterbury Street, Gillingham, ME7 5LH	1.4 miles away
Dr Bhatia , 13 Pump Lane, Rainham Mark, Gillingham Kent ME8 7AA	1.7 miles away
Dr Jana , 151, Napier Road, Gillingham, ME7 4HH	1.8 miles away

Access

Dr Patel is 1.2 miles from the main site of Woodlands Family Practice, the Gillingham Medical Centre, which is on a main road with good car parking facilities and public transport links.

A considerable number of patients registered with Dr Patel live in the Rainham and Wigmore area, and may find accessing his services at Rainham Healthy Living Centre more convenient.

New services patients can access

As a result of the merger, Dr Patel's patients would have access to a number

of services from Woodlands Family Practices, which previously Dr Patel was unable to provide, for example minor surgery, phlebotomy and a full family planning service.

Demographic assumptions

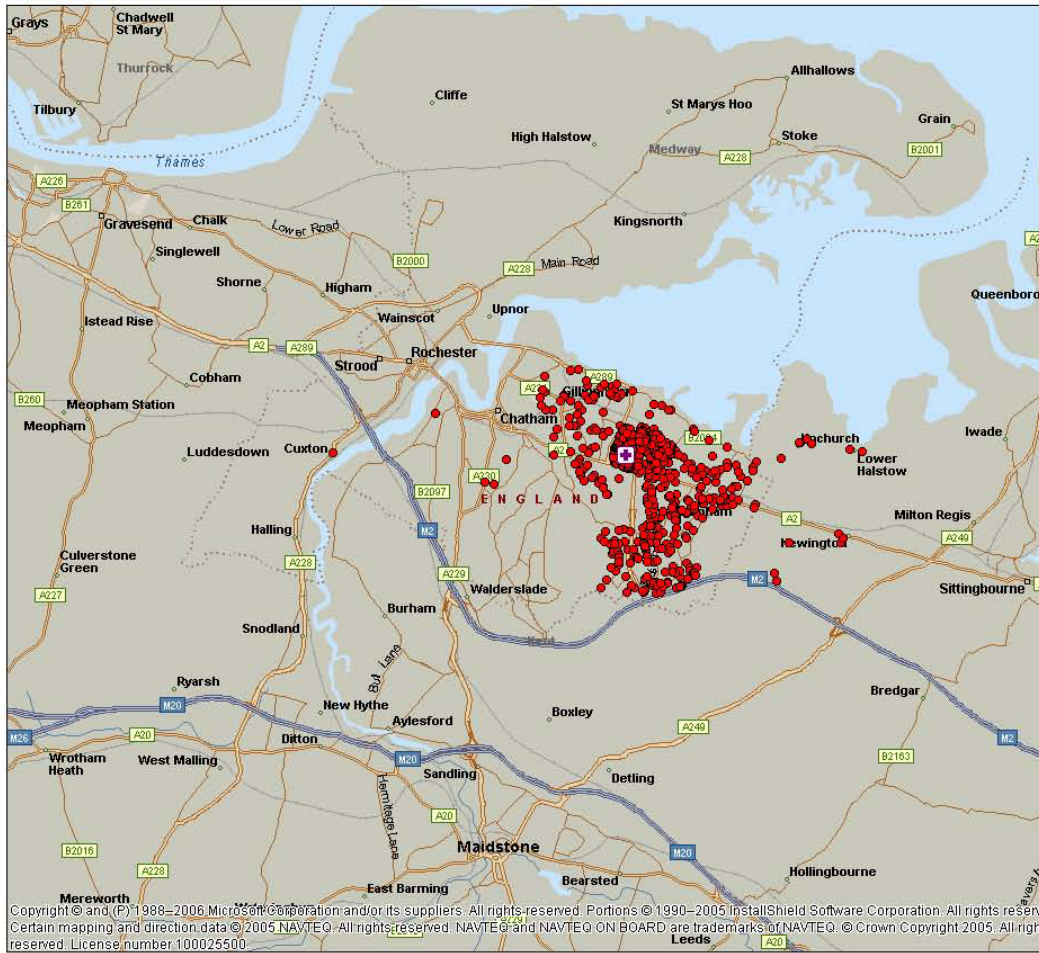
- (a) What demographic projections have been taken into account in formulating the proposals?
- (b) What are the implications for future patient flows and catchment areas for the service?

Currently Dr Patel serves around 1650 patients; the table below illustrates the patient list make-up.

It is not anticipated that any group of patients will be adversely affected by the proposal to merge with Woodlands Family Practice.

Town/Locality	Count
CHATHAM	18
(blank)	18
GILLINGHAM	1607
HEMPSTEAD	55
RAINHAM	238
WIGMORE	81
(blank)	1233
HERNE BAY	2
BROOMFIELD	2
ROCHESTER	4
CUXTON	1
(blank)	3
SITTINGBOURNE	26
HARTLIP	5
LOWER HALSTOW	5
NEWINGTON	5
UPCHURCH	11
Grand Total	1657

G82718 - where patients live

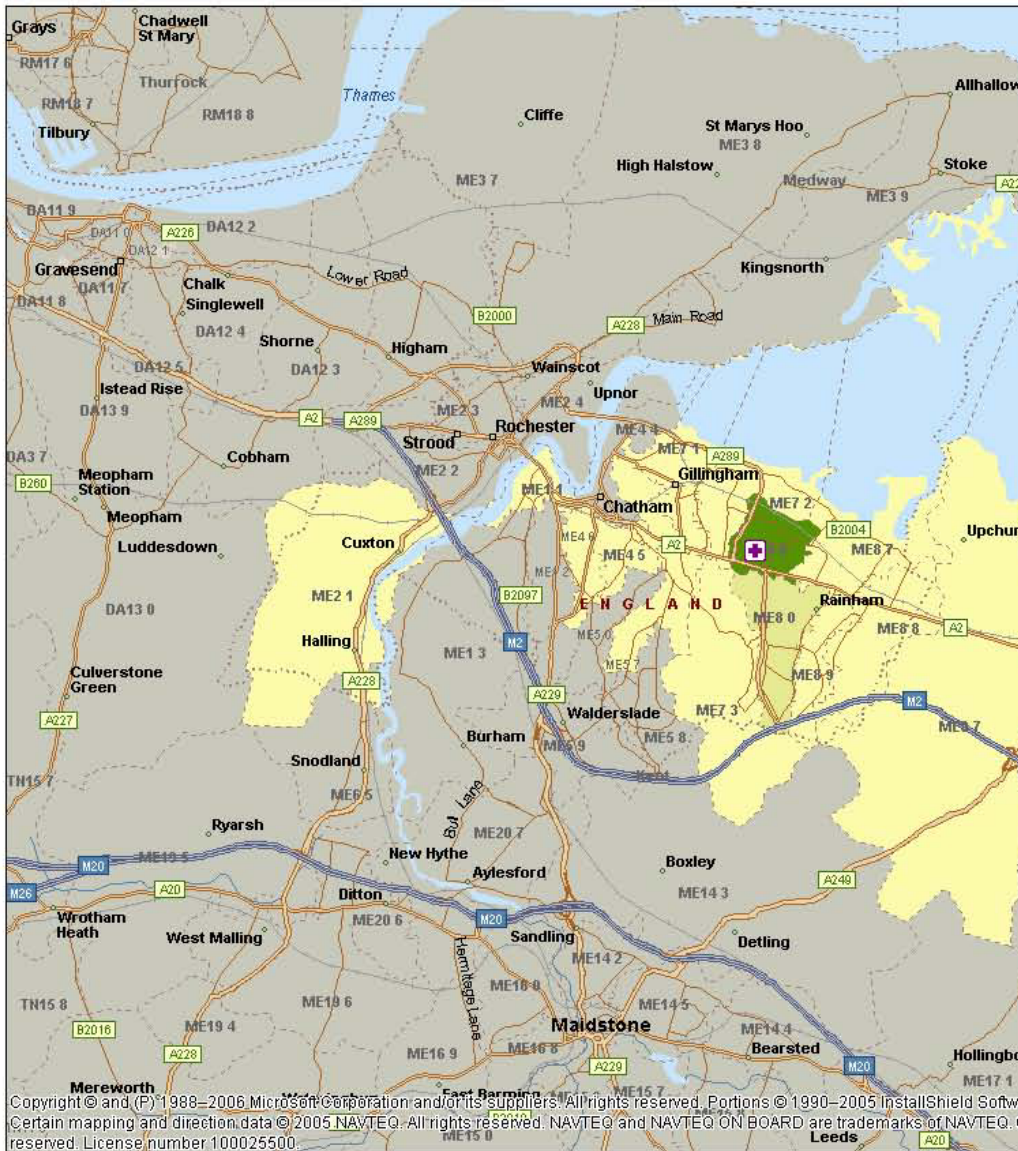


- Pushpins**
- G82718_Patel_Patients
 - ✚ G82718_Patel_Practice_Location


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Patients per Postcode Sector

Patients per Postcode Sector



Pushpins

 G82718_Patel_Practice_Location

Patients per Postcode Sector

-  875 to 1,000
-  750 to 874
-  625 to 749
-  500 to 624
-  375 to 499
-  250 to 374
-  125 to 249
-  0 to 124

Can you estimate the impact this will have on specific groups?

- (a) What will be the impact on children?
- (b) What will be the impact on people with disabilities?
- (c) What will be the impact on older people?
- (d) Has an equalities impact assessment been carried out of this proposal?

As the closest alternative GP practice is situated just 0.2 miles from Dr Patel's surgery, we do not anticipate any adverse impact on any group.

Choice and commissioning

- (a) Will the change generate a significant increase or decrease in demand for a service arising from patient choice, payment by results and practice based commissioning?
- (b) Have plans been made for "financial cushioning" if additional capacity is not taken up?
- (c) Is the proposal consistent with World Class Commissioning and reflected in NHS Medway commissioning plans?

This section is not applicable to the proposal.

Clinical evidence

- (a) Is there evidence to show the change will deliver the same or better clinical outcomes for patients?
- (b) Will any groups be less well off?
- (c) Will the proposal contribute to achievement of national and local priorities/targets?

It is considered that this change in provision will enable patients to access services in a higher quality environment. There is tangible evidence to show that this may improve health outcomes for patients.

We recognise that, as with any merger, a small number of patients will be disadvantaged because of having to travel slightly further. Equally, many will benefit from having additional services available to them.

Joint Working

- (a) How will the proposed change contribute to joint workings and improved pathways of care?

This section is not applicable to the proposal.

Health inequalities

- (a) Has this proposal been created with the intention of addressing health inequalities and health improvement goals in this area?
- (b) What health inequalities will this proposal address?
- (c) What modelling or needs assessment has been done to support this?
- (d) How does this proposal reflect priorities in the JSNA?

It is considered that this change in provision will enable patients to access services in a higher quality environment. There is tangible evidence to show that this may improve health outcomes for patients.

There will be no groups who we would consider to be less well off as a result of these proposals.

Wider Infrastructure

- (a) What infrastructure will be available to support the redesigned or reconfigured service?
- (b) Please comment on transport implications in the context of sustainability and access

This section is not applicable to the proposal.

Do you believe the outlined proposal is a substantial variation or development?

We do not consider the proposal substantial. Dr Patel has carefully considered his future retirement and the merger will give his patients the opportunity for long term stability of care.

Is there any other information you feel the Committee should consider in making its decision?