

29<sup>th</sup> July, 2014

***To our patients:***

The doctors, nurses and all the staff at the Jubilee Street Practice (JSP) are committed to providing primary medical services of the highest quality to you our patients.

However as many of you are aware this practice is under enormous financial pressure because of the way in which the government has changed the formula under which GP practices are funded.

The changes mean that practices such as ours will get much less money as funding is now being transferred to other GP practices which, by and large, serve more prosperous patients and communities. This is clearly unfair although the government still maintains, in the face of all the evidence to the contrary, that it is a fairer distribution of funds. As patients you have given us your full support, signed petitions, come out on marches and written to our MPs and local councillors. We have been humbled and uplifted by the level of your support. Despite all this and the evident injustice of the situation, nothing has so far changed.

Should this situation continue, (and we still have good reasons to expect that it will change) the reduction in funding means that we are approaching a time when it will not be possible for us to continue to provide this high level of service to all our patients and the community we have served for over 70 years.

The doctors, nurses and all the staff at the JSP have decided that we are not prepared to put our patients at risk by providing a skeleton service in place of the excellent service we have built up over many years. This does not fit with our ethos and standards. Therefore, as we have stated before, unless the funding position changes the JSP will have to close. This information is not new but we feel that it is important to restate our position.

On June 3<sup>rd</sup> we had a meeting with Lord Howe, a Minister in the Department of Health. He told us that he is committed to finding a solution so that the JSP does not have to close.

NHS England, the body that deals with the core funding of GP practices, told us that it would come forward with a funding proposal so we could remain open. They said they would do this by 21<sup>st</sup> July. We have not yet received any such proposal.

We hope that the NHS will provide us with sufficient funding so that this practice will not have to close. However we feel it necessary to inform you that unless we are presented with a workable funding solution, we currently expect at the end of October this year to have to give 6 months' notice to NHS England that the practice will close. If this were to happen then we would close at the end of April 2015.

**GPS**

- ☐ Dr. Salma Ahmed
- ☐ Dr. Naomi Beer
- ☐ Dr. Becky Gidley
- ☐ Dr. Nicola Hagdrup
- ☐ Dr. Sally Hull

**GPS**

- ☐ Dr. Ali Klaber
- ☐ Dr. Tom Margham
- ☐ Dr. Emma Ovink
- ☐ Dr. Jo Price
- ☐ Dr. Jens Ruhbach
- ☐ Dr. Natalie Symes

**NURSES**

- ☐ Liz Hands
- ☐ Ruth George-Mason
- ☐ Rachael Sheehan

**PRACTICE MANAGER**

- ☐ Virginia Patania

**ASSISTANT  
PRACTICE MANAGER**

- ☐ Lyn Owens



We are letting you know now because we are committed to keeping you informed so that you are not taken by surprise if the surgery is forced to close. Should this be the case we would do everything possible to find alternatives for all our patients in the period between October 2014 and April 2015.

It is vitally important that you continue to support this practice. We therefore urge you to remain with us until at least the position becomes clearer in mid-October and we will continue to register new patients because we do anticipate that NHS England will honour the promise made by the Health Minister to keep our surgery open and able to continue to deliver high quality services. Although we hope it does not come to this, legal proceedings may be necessary in order to solve the problem. Please do keep up the support, follow our new campaign initiatives and our progress via the website and media, sign our petition and write to your MP. There is still everything to fight for!

With best wishes,

The Jubilee Street Practice

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