

**A meeting of the Primary Care  
Commissioning Committee**

**Item Number:**

**Date of meeting: 03 October 2017**

**81/17**

**Title of report:**

Rotherfield Surgery: Application to close Rotherfield Surgery site.

**Recommendation:**

The Committee is recommended to **discuss** the application and recommend further actions.

**Summary:**

The partners of Rotherfield Surgery have considered the challenges they have experienced in finding new partners for the GMS contract, and have decided that they are unable to continue to provide primary care services across two surgery sites. The site at The Brook, near Crowborough, offers more opportunities for expansion to accommodate the existing clinical and administrative workforce and consequently the partners have submitted an application to close the Rotherfield Surgery site.

Patient engagement and consultation, building works and discussions with neighbouring GP practices will be carried out and further information presented to PCCC to inform their decision.

**Committee sponsor:** Sally Smith, Director of Integration and Primary Care

**Author(s):** Elizabeth Tinley, Primary Care Contract Manager

**Date of report:** 25/09/17

**Review by other committees:** Ongoing progress will be reviewed by Primary Care Commissioning Operation Group, with recommendations reported to Primary Care Commissioning Committee for ratification.

**Health impact:** No health impact; all Primary Care healthcare services will continue to be provided to patients registered with Rotherfield Surgery at The Brook Surgery site.

**Financial implications:** Rent reimbursement currently made for the use of Rotherfield Surgery site will cease. Additional rent reimbursement may be incurred for The Brook surgery site due to the inclusion of rooms currently not used for NHS primary medical services

**Legal or compliance implications:** Patient consultation will be required due to change in service provision for patients currently seen at the Rotherfield Surgery site.

**Link to key objective and/or principal risks:** Provision of safe services to patients

**Patient and public engagement:** No patient and public engagement has been carried out to date, but will be conducted to inform any decisions made by HWLH CCG in respect of this application

**Equality Analysis (EA) completed:**

Negative Impact

Neutral Impact

Positive Impact

No Impact

EA Summary: To be conducted with patient engagement and consultation

**Privacy Impact Assessment:**

No personal data used

Data processes sufficient

Actions required

Actions: [if actions are required, summarise them here]

## **Rotherfield Surgery: Application to close Rotherfield Surgery site**

### **1. Introduction.**

Rotherfield Surgery is a GMS Primary Care contract, held by three GP partners, and has a registered patient list size of 7,202 (as at 01.07.17). Patients registered to Rotherfield Surgery are currently seen at two sites; Rotherfield Surgery in the village of Rotherfield, and The Brook Health Centre in Crowborough.

Following extensive and prolonged attempts to recruit new GP partners to the contract, the GPs have reviewed their situation and made the decision to consolidate their clinical and administrative workforce onto one site in order to maintain continued safe primary care services to their patients. The attached Contract Variation application (Appendix 1) to close the Rotherfield Surgery site, maintaining The Brook Health Centre, has been received by HWLH CCG.

Rotherfield Surgery has been experiencing difficulties in recruitment for the past two years and has raised concerns of how to continue to provide safe primary care services to their registered with the CCG. During these conversations a number of options have been explored and discussed.

The current GP partners are aware of the issues that the difficulty of recruitment of a new partner will have in terms of succession planning. This is particularly significant, as one partner may be considering retirement in the near future. The partners have focussed on finding a new partner rather than a salaried GP as they consider this is more sustainable to their model of working.

The geography of the surrounding area means that patients live across a wide area of the High Weald. The attached map (Appendix 2) shows the extent of the area of registered patients, as at January 2017, and indicates that a slightly higher proportion of the registered population live in the vicinity of The Brook surgery. The distance between the two surgeries is 1.4 miles, with a bus route that passes through Rotherfield and onto Crowborough and is serviced by busses several times a day.

There are a number of practices which share boundaries with Rotherfield Surgery. To the North West, Beacon Surgery with the practice in Crowborough and Groombridge & Hartfield surgeries may be impacted by patients concerned about the increased numbers visiting The Brook site. The following surgeries also share a practice boundary with Rotherfield, and are more likely to be impacted by patients who are currently seen at the Rotherfield site, as these are in the more southern and eastern areas:

- Saxonbury House Medical Practice, Crowborough
- Wadhurst Medical Practice, Wadhurst
- Woodhill Surgery, Mayfield
- Buxted Medical Centre, Buxted
- Heathfield Surgery, Heathfield

All practices will be contacted to establish whether they consider that they would be able to manage any increased registrations that the closure of the Rotherfield site will have.

Discussions between the CCG and partners have suggested that they open dialogue with other neighbouring practices, to explore any possibilities of working more closely. No formal feedback is available from these discussions.

In response to the on-going pressures on the practice, the practice applied to, and was awarded funding from the NHS GP Resilience Fund. A practice 'diagnostic' was carried out by a GP to explore the pressures and possibilities for the practice. A number of strengths and weaknesses have been highlighted, which the practice will follow up on.

Building and remodelling work will be required at The Brook surgery to enable the entire registered list to be seen at this site. Current clinical rooms are occupied by use for a private chiropodist, chiropractor physiotherapist and dentist. These rooms could be brought back into use for Primary Medical Services, with some adaptation. Additional administrative space would also be required and discussions with the practice would be required to be assured that these works could be completed prior to the closure of the Rotherfield site.

Following this initial application, the practice will work with the CCG to complete the required procedures, including patient engagement and consultation. Details of all future actions will be reported to the CCG's Primary Care Commissioning Operational Group and the Primary Care Commissioning Committee for further discussion, debate and decision.

## **2. Summary.**

The partners of Rotherfield Surgery have considered the challenges they have experienced in finding new partners for the GMS contract, and have decided that they are unable to continue to provide primary care services across two surgery sites. The site at The Brook, near Crowborough, offers more opportunities for expansion to accommodate the existing clinical and administrative workforce and consequently the partners have submitted an application to close the Rotherfield Surgery site.

Patient engagement and consultation, building works and discussions with neighbouring GP practices will be carried out and further information presented to PCCC to inform their decision.

## **3. Recommendation.**

The Committee is recommended to discuss the application and recommend further actions.

Elizabeth Tinley  
Primary Care Contract Manager  
Report date: 25 September 2017