



**North East and  
North Cumbria**

# **Proposed Merger of Teams Medical Practice and Glenpark Medical Centre**

Neil Bunney (ICB) and Lesley Gooding (Teams Medical Practice)

# Merger Proposal



Proposal for Teams Medical Practice and Glenpark Medical Centre to merge their contracts



Planned date 1<sup>st</sup> July 2024

# Reasons for the Merger

The proposed merger between the practices is to secure sustainability and provide high quality service to the community

Changes in Partnership

Challenges for the practice (Financial, Demand, Access, Lease)

The merger will provide shared resources, economies of scale. Improved resilience and integrated clinical systems

The practices are geographically very close with overlapping practice boundaries

The practices are both members of Gateshead Inner West PCN

The merger is proposing one partnership and retaining the two current surgery sites

# Benefits of the merger for Patients

## **More choice for patients**

The long-term goal is for patients to have the option to select either location based on their convenience for appointments.

## **More GPs and Nurses available to patients**

Each of our GPs and Nurses possesses unique special interests and supplementary skills. With an expanded clinical team, we can offer patients a wider array of healthcare choices, ensuring a more comprehensive range of services.

## **Modern ways of working**

NHS England's priority over the next 18 months is for all GP practices to move to 'modern ways of working', which means simpler access to healthcare online and over the phone.

## **A sustainable, integrated Practice**

A merged practice will be more financially stable, allowing for continued investment in staff training, facility improvements, and technology upgrades, ensuring sustainable healthcare delivery for the long term

# Engagement Plan

Six week  
engagement plan  
commencing  
1st May 2024

Communication with  
patients – SMS,  
letters, website  
updates, information  
in practices

Formal letter to  
Stakeholders

Patient surveys

Communication with  
Patient Participation  
Groups

Engagement with  
Town and Parish  
Councillors

Public Engagement  
Events

Approval from Local  
Medical Council

Joint staff meetings

# FAQ's

**Q. Will there still be the same number of appointments available at my usual practice?**

**A.** Yes. In the short-term, appointments at both sites will remain the same to provide stability for both practices, their patients and their teams.

However, we will be reviewing the ways we work over the coming months to best understand how we provide care to patients in the future. Eventually we expect the ways of working to be similar for all patients registered across the combined practice.

Being larger may allow us to develop new services and enable us to manage the demand for appointments across both practices more effectively.

**Q. Will I still be able to get an appointment at my usual practice?**

**A.** Yes. The plan is to provide routine care from both sites. However, in the future you could be offered an appointment at either site if this was more convenient or suitable for you. Sometimes a service requires specialist equipment, so some additional services may be offered at one site.

We will update patients regarding any new services in due course

# FAQ's

**Q. Will I still contact my practice on the usual telephone number?**

**A.** Yes. Until otherwise notified, the existing practice telephone numbers will remain the same.

**Q. Can I still speak to my regular GP or Nurse Practitioner?**

**A.** Yes. There are no planned staff changes due to this merger, and you should still be able to see or speak to your usual GP or member of our nursing teams. One of the drivers behind this merger is to secure the long-term viability of the practices in Dunston and Teams.

**Q. Will all current services continue?**

**A.** Yes. There are no plans to stop any services that either practice provides due to the merger.

**Q. Will the practice opening hours remain the same?**

**A.** There are no immediate plans to change practice opening hours.

# FAQ's

## **Q. What additional benefits will I see?**

**A.** Over the coming months we will identify areas across both practices that could be improved to benefit our patients. Where there is a difference in the care provided, we will work to develop a consistent service for all our patients in the future based on best practice.

We aim to eventually share resources across both sites, be more resilient to the challenges all practices face, and hopefully expand the services that we can provide. The one larger practice would offer a wider range of clinicians for patients to see, some clinicians have additional clinical interests and expertise. The times of appointments may also be more convenient for some patients.

## **Q. Will the proposed merger affect the care of patients who are housebound?**

**A.** No. We will continue to work closely with our community teams as we do now.



# FAQ's

**Q. Will there be any change to the service we receive from community midwives or health visitors?**

**A.** We are not anticipating any changes. The midwives and health visitors are not employed directly by the practices, but we will engage with them to ensure that usual care continues to be provided.

**Q. Will I still be able to use my usual pharmacy for my prescriptions?**

**A.** Yes. Prescriptions will continue to be managed in the same way and you will still be able to use your preferred pharmacy or dispensary service.

**Q. Will the practice boundaries change, and what will happen to patients living outside those boundaries?**

**A.** The two practices have similar but not identical boundaries. This may be reviewed over time, and we would communicate directly with any patients who live outside the newly defined area.

# FAQ's

**Q. Do I have the option to change to a different practice if I wish?**

**A.** We very much hope that all our patients will continue to use the combined practice for their healthcare in future. If you do prefer to consider other options, a list of other practices near you can be found below, or by visiting this website <https://www.nhs.uk/service-search/find-a-gp>