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13 July 2022

Dear The Village Surgery PPG

Thank you for your letter of 28 June regarding the closure of The Village Surgery. Please accept our apologies for the delay in responding.

In your letter you ask two questions, which are answered below.

- 1. In the FAQ's it states that SWLCCG has considered all options for the future of The Village Surgery. Please could you specify what alternative options were considered as part of the process, and how did South West London CCG make their final decision and why were the patients of The Village Surgery not consulted as part of this process?**

At the point that the decision on closing the practice was made there was one other option for the future of the practice, which was finding a new provider to provide services from the premises in the long term. The cancellation of the previous provider's CQC registration meant that the previous provider, the partnership between Dr Al-Yaqubi and Dr Alikhan, could not run the service. In order to find a new provider we would have been required by law to run a procurement process, which would take approximately 9-12 months. We did not take this option forward because the relatively small list size of the practice, which had become even smaller since the CQC registration of the previous providers was cancelled, makes it very difficult to find a good, stable, resilient provider for patients for the long-term. We also would have had to find a caretaker to run the practice during the 9-12 month procurement process and for a number of reasons were concerned about how stable a caretaker provider would be for that period of time. We believe that patients are much more likely to receive a high standard of care from local practices than by running a process to find a new provider.

When a practice is experiencing problems as The Village Surgery was when Dr Al-Yaqubi and Dr Alikhan were running the surgery, we always very strongly encourage them to work with us to resolve these problems so that we do not end up where we are now, and good care can be provided to patients from the surgery in the long term. This often involves a merger with another practice, which is a way of creating greater stability and resilience within a practice, and bringing other GPs in who can work with the current GPs to resolve problems. Under their contract the GPs have to agree on which practice they want to merge with, which Dr Al-Yaqubi and Dr Alikhan were unable to do.

There was no legal duty to consult with patients on this decision. We had to make the decision quickly because of the nature of the CQC process which meant that we had to work very quickly to secure care for patients and severely limited our ability to run a meaningful engagement process.

**2. In the question: “Do the other local GP practices have enough space for us all?”**

- **You state that a capacity assessment has been undertaken with the nearest GP practices, they have the ability to take on new patients.**

**Please can you explain how the clinical capacity assessment was undertaken and what was the process? How did you establish local surgeries had the capacity to increase list size and how will it be measured in the future, especially with the ongoing growing infrastructure in the area e.g. The Fountain regeneration. Please provide supporting evidence.**

- There are three practices within one mile of The Village Surgery, two of which are an extremely short distance away. We spoke to these practices and together they would have significantly more than enough capacity to take on the whole of the Village Surgery list size. In practice not all of The Village Surgery patients will register with these three practices due to where patients live.
- There are eight practices within 1.5 miles and 17 practices within two miles of The Village Surgery. Out of these practices, we contacted those closest to the highest concentration of Village Surgery patients. The responses give us no concerns about the capacity of local practices to register sufficient numbers of patients, relative to the concentration of patients living nearby.
- We have spoken to the same practices about future developments in the area, both actual and potential, and there are no concerns about their capacity to take on these additional patients.
- All of the practices who we contacted are rated as Good overall by the CQC. We are very confident that patients will get good quality care from these practices.

We hope this response to your questions is helpful.

Best wishes,



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