



Report to Health Scrutiny & Policy Development Committee 14 July 2021

Report of: Report of the Director of Commissioning and Development, NHS Sheffield Clinical Commissioning Group

Subject: Proposed Merger of Norfolk Park Health Centre with Dover Court and Consultation on the Proposed Closure of Norfolk Park Health Centre.

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Summary: This briefing note is presented at the request of the Scrutiny Committee to enable it to scrutinise the proposed merger of Norfolk Park Health Centre with Dovercourt Surgery and the associated closure of the surgery at Norfolk Park Health Centre. The practices are currently consulting on the proposals. Other options are being considered including continuing to provide services from Norfolk Park. The benefits of the proposed merger and site closure are set out together with the principal risks and mitigations.

Type of item: The report author should tick the appropriate box

Reviewing of existing policy	
Informing the development of new policy	
Statutory consultation	
Performance / budget monitoring report	
Cabinet request for scrutiny	
Full Council request for scrutiny	
Call-in of Cabinet decision	
Briefing paper for the Scrutiny Committee	✓
Other	

The Scrutiny Committee is being asked to:

The Committee is asked to consider the proposals and provide views, comments and recommendations.

Category of Report: OPEN

Report of the Director of Commissioning and Development, NHS Sheffield Clinical Commissioning Group

Proposed Merger of Norfolk Park Health Centre with Dover Court and Consultation on the Proposed Closure of Norfolk Park Health Centre.

1. Background

Dovercourt Surgery is held on a Persona Medical Services (PMS) contract by two GP partners and employs 9 salaried GPs as well as other clinical and administrative staff. Services are provided from two sites Dovercourt and Manor Top surgeries. The practice currently has 8,791 registered patients.

Norfolk Park Health Centre is held on a General Medical Services (GMS) contract by two partners, in addition they employ 1 salaried GP and other clinical and administrative staff. Services are provided from Norfolk Park Health Centre, a LIFT building managed by Community Health Partnerships. The practice currently has 5,057 registered patients.

Both practices are rated by CQC as good and are within the same primary care network, GPA1.

Map 1 in Appendix 1 to this paper shows the distribution of the registered population of Norfolk Park Health Centre by Lower Super Output Area (LSOA).

2. Proposal

The two practices wish to merge under the single Personal Medical Services contract already held by Dovercourt Surgery and as part of this merger to close the surgery located in Norfolk Park Health Centre (the health centre itself would remain open).

If a merger is approved patients registered at Norfolk Park Health Centre would become part of the registered list of the merged practice. The partners both surgeries would join a partnership and the Norfolk Park partners would become signatories to the PMS contract. All employed clinical, management and administrative staff would transfer to the new employer.

The new practice would provide all services from the Dovercourt and Manor Top sites. Map 2 at Appendix 1 to this paper shows areas accessible within 10 minutes by public transport from Norfolk Park Health Centre, this includes the Manor Top surgery. However, as set out in the consultation, the longer term future of the Manor Top surgery is subject to review.

3. Current Position

No decision has been made on the closure or merger. The proposal to close the surgery at Norfolk Park Medical Centre and merge with

another practice has been made by the GPs at Norfolk Park Medical Practice, not the CCG.

As the delegated commissioner for primary medical services, the CCG's role is to approve any proposed changes. To reach a decision the practices will submit a final business case including a quality and equality impact assessment and summary of the consultation to our Primary Care Commissioning Committee.

An equality impact assessment has been developed to identify risks, impact and mitigations. As a result of the proposed relocation of services, the practice is required by law to consult and a 12 week consultation commenced in May 2021. The CCG has offered resources to support the practices to undertake the consultation to ensure that the patient voice is heard and presented as part of the decision making process.

Our role is also to oversee the consultation; a paper came to a board sub-committee that oversees engagement and equality, called SPEEEC. They have assured the consultation plan (they didn't consider the business case) is robust and inclusive although there were issues with a case for change and providing adequate information for people to make an informed decision).

The proposal will be considered by the Committee at a meeting in public. This is currently planned for September. The Committee will also receive additional information from the CCG to support them to decide on the application to merge and proposed site closure.

4. Further Options

During the consultation, the practices are listening to the views of their patients and continue to consider other options for service provision. These include re-assessing the feasibility of continuing to provide services from Norfolk Park. These remain under review and the CCG is supporting the practices to develop these.

5. What does this mean for the people of Sheffield?

5.1. Benefits of the Proposed Merger

The practices consider that this merger and associated premises changes would provide resilience for the staff and patients of Norfolk Park and Dovercourt Surgery.

It would deliver benefits to both registered populations, provide stability, future viability and minimise any future impacts on surrounding Practices, the Network and the Locality and offer employment security for all staff.

The merger would also provide other efficiencies for example, through economies of scale. No clinical services will be lost to patients as a result of the proposed merger and patients are likely to benefit from extended opening times (early morning/evening).

5.2. Principal Risks and Mitigation

Consultation will identify patient concerns, impacts and suggest appropriate mitigation. The following risks have been identified already:

- Distance to travel between Norfolk Park and the new surgery – the Manor Top site of Dovercourt Surgery will continue to operate in order to mitigate distance to travel for affected patients and the practice will continue to review patient experience and future requirements.
- Change of staff – clinical and administrative and management staff from Norfolk Park will transfer to Dovercourt ensuring continuity of experience for patients.
- Capacity – Dovercourt Surgery forms part of the South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw ICS Wave 4 B Capital Bid Programme and development of a project initiation document and SOP are progressing well. Subject to final approval this will provide further clinical and administrative capacity for the merged practice as well as space for PCN services.

6. Recommendation

The Committee is asked to consider the proposals and provide views, comments.

Map 2: Travel Times from Norfolk Park Surgery

Page 34



The green shaded areas are accessible within 10 minutes by public transport from Norfolk Park Health Centre.