

Primary Care Commissioning Committee

Proposal to Close Practice Patient List  
Bacon Road Medical Centre

Submitted by:	Gemma Anderson, Primary Care Support
Status	Decision
GP Practice Boundary reduction	D82060 Bacon Road Medical Centre 16 Bacon Road, Norwich, NR2 3QX

Background

An application was received from Bacon Road Medical Centre with a proposal to formally close their practice list for a period of 10 months

Rationale

The practice is keen to ensure a robust and safe environment for all patients and staff, ensuring that there is good delivery of patient care. Due to existing and forthcoming clinical vacancies, the practice has stated that it is becoming problematic to ensure equitable levels of practice care. This is due to the high demand from patients and also the shortfall of clinician availability.

Currently the practice has the following vacancies

- 0.8 Nurse practitioner
- 0.6 GP
- 0.6 GP imminent maternity leave

The practice has advised that to address the demand on capacity, clinicians on duty will extend clinics and those not on rotas will undertake administration from home and undertake other clinical duties on non-working days. The management team are actively involved in pilot schemes that will help to alleviate pressure – including the home visiting pilot and physiotherapy pilot with the intention of patients accessing care at the earliest opportunity. The practice have advised that these pilots are alleviating some demand, however it does not address daily requirement for GPs to be accessible in Clinic, and provide immediate care when required such as home visits.

The practice utilise Locum GP Cover and Nurse practitioner cover wherever possible but securing cover is heavily dependent on locum availability and does not provide consistency of patient care. The practice has advised that the impact financially is such that this cannot continue for many more months.

The practice has provided notifications to patients regarding their applications to close their patient list and to reduce their practice boundary - to date no feedback has been received. The practice has engaged with practices in their local geographical area and they have been notified of their intention to temporally close their patient list in addition to inviting discussion around adjustments to boundary. To date no feedback has been received.

The practice have advised that if their list closure is approved they will continue to register children 16 years and under and those co-habiting with existing registered patients.

The practice has advised that they have active recruitment in progress for the substantive posts and discussions under way with other practices with regard to a possible future merger.

#### Care Homes

This area also contains one residential care home Cavell Court, therefore any new patients/residents of the care home will no longer be able to register at Bacon Road Medical Centre. The practice has confirmed that they will continue to see the patients that are currently resident and registered with them but would not except any new registrations. Cavell Court houses 80 patients in a mixture of residential and nursing home beds.

#### Stakeholders

On the 5<sup>th</sup> June an email was sent from NHS England to the practices that are within a five mile radius of the surgery in order to gain their comments on the proposed boundary changes with the deadline of close of play Friday 15<sup>th</sup> June 2018. Comments were also sought from the neighbouring CCG and the LMC.

On the 12<sup>th</sup> June we had only received a few responses so a follow up email was sent to chase responses.

Please see attached response tracker (Appendix 2)

We had 10 practices respond to the request out of the 25 that were contacted. These were:

- UEA Medical Centre
- Trinity and Bowthorpe Medical Practice
- Wensum Valley Medical Practice
- Newmarket Road Surgery
- St Stephens Gate Surgery
- Humbleyard Medical Practice
- Lionwood Medical Practice
- Hellesdon Medical Practice
- East Norwich Medical Practice
- Thorpewood Medical Group

The feedback received back from the practices was of a mix, 7 practices supported the request whilst 3 practices raised concerns.

The concerns raised by practices were with regard to where new patients would be able to register and what provision is being considered to cope with the expected increasing population of Norwich. If this List closure was to be approved, would this create a domino effect on the other surrounding practices resulting in additional requests to close practice lists.

#### Recommendation

Members of the Primary Care Commissioning Committee are asked to consider the proposal and make a decision to approve or reject the List Closure.

It is recommended that the application should be approved on the basis of the following:

The practice rationale that has been provided and the key concern is regarding the clinical vacancies within the practice. Bacon Road have highlighted that they are actively looking to recruit to this post and looking at possibilities of merging.

They have requested a period of 10 months to close whilst they are looking to recruit. They have also submitted an application to reduce their boundary area which will be reviewed by the Primary Care Commissioning Committee separately.

The Committee is to note that the CCG recently approved an informal list closure for the practice due to exceptional circumstances pending the outcome of this application.

The feedback from the practices was generally supportive and practices' understanding the request has come from issues with recruitment and looking at patient safety. They have highlighted that they would like us to look at what provision is going to be put in place to manage the increasing population and demand in Norwich. Also practices have

highlighted the need for NHS England and the CCG to work with practices to support them through the increasing demand within Norwich. .

## Appendix

### Appendix 1



Bacon Road List  
Closure Application.p

### Appendix 2



Bacon Road Medical  
Practice Response Lis