

Merging Practices - Frequently Asked Questions

Q. Why merge? What's the point?

A. Over the last 20 years General Practice has changed beyond all recognition. The administrative and clinical demands on practices has greatly increased and become very hard to manage in smaller practices.

In order to manage this more effectively, and to improve standards of care, practices are now looking to join together where there is a shared ethos and where a merger can benefit patients, staff and doctors.

Many of the demands on practices are the same whatever their size and can be more effectively managed in a larger practice. For example the requirements necessary for Care Quality Commission (CQC) registration are largely the same whatever your size. Forming a larger partnership, Sherwood Medical Partnership, will have over 14,000 patients and be more cost effective. Long term this will make us a much stronger practice and mean that more resource can go to direct patient care.

Q. Why Farnsfield Surgery?

A. Farnsfield is a smaller practice with about 4800 patients. They have a GP coming up to retirement and were looking for a like-minded practice to join with. Farnsfield approached us as they felt we shared their ethos of providing high quality patient care and we feel we can work well together. You can find out more about them at www.farnsfieldsurgery.co.uk

Q. Will I have to travel to Farnsfield to be seen?

A. No. But you will be able to if it would suit you. Clipstone and Farnsfield are too far apart to ever consider merging buildings.

Q. What benefits will I see?

A. At first, you probably won't notice any change at all. Once our IT systems have merged you'll be able to book appointments at either site if it would suit you. Initially most of the benefits for the practice will be behind the scenes but in time you should start to see improvements. At the moment we are still very limited by space and very much looking forward to moving into our new "Crown Medical Centre" in the summer of 2015.

Q. When is all this happening?

A. We will officially form the Sherwood Medical Partnership on 1 October 2014. Merging our IT systems and sorting everything else out may take a little longer!

Q. How do I find out more or share my views?

A. Visit Clipstone Health Centre on 17 July from 10am-12pm or 4.30-5.30pm or Farnsfield Surgery on 30 July from 1-3pm. You'll be able to meet representatives from Farnsfield Surgery as well from our practice and find out more about our merger plans.