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**Practice merger between Bradley Stoke Surgery and Stoke Gifford Medical Centre**

From 1st April 25, Bradley Stoke Surgery (BSS) and Stoke Gifford Medical Centre (SGMC) will merge. This will initially involve back-office functions with the full clinical service merge planned to take place in early July. The new organisation will be called ‘Stokes Medical Group’.

The primary care environment is very challenging; largely due to funding constraints; ageing populations and difficulties in recruiting into specialist roles (clinical and managerial). The aim of the merger is to improve patient care and business resilience.

The merger will allow the practices to respond to changes in healthcare demands and to manage the rapid list growth linked to the local new building.

Our merger is built on strong foundations. We are merging through choice and as equal partners. Our two well-established and successful practices have similar values, structures and finances. We also have complementary functions and a history of working closely together. Our practice boundary will encompass the two current boundaries.

From July 25, all BSS and SGMC patients will be looked after by the merged Practice. Patients will continue to be able to request appointments at their preferred location and with their usual GP.

We will work to achieve the following outcomes for patients:

* Improved choice (in terms of location, time and specialism) with prompt access and continuity prioritised.
* Improved resilience in service delivery.
* Pro-actively planning for population growth.
* Capacity for innovation and management of key services.

From July, there will be a new website with information about the new organisation. On-line access via Anima and contact details for both practices will be available there.

We have been working on this merger for over a year. We are heavily reliant on NHS and other partners in this process and, while we are not expecting disruption, we would ask that you bear with us as we work through this complex process.

Thank you

The Partners of Bradley Stoke Medical Centre and Stoke Gifford Medical Centre.