

Position statement

Pond Tail Surgery future GP services

11 January 2021

Background

- Pond Tail Surgery, in South Godstone, Surrey, is a well-established practice with a registered list size of 7,263.
- Uncertainty about Pond Tail practice has arisen since the sad, untimely death of the former, single handed contract holder, Dr Khan-Gilbert. Current short term, temporary arrangements expire in July and there is now a need to secure the longer-term future for the patient list.

Key messages

- Delivery of GP Services rely on the availability of premises. Current uncertainty surrounding the Landlord's agreement to permit continued use of the current site means that all alternative options need to be explored before a formal recommendation can be made by the commissioner.
- A number of actions are being carried out including:
 - On-going discussions with the practice landlords regarding both short- and long-term occupancy options. It should be noted that a short-term extension will afford more time to conduct a competitive procurement process should alternative local premises for longer -term occupation be identified.
 - Initiating an independent exercise to understand the likelihood and feasibility of securing alternative potential premises from which to deliver services – which, as above, will inform the feasibility of successful competitive procurement
 - On-going engagement with local practices to explore support requirements in the event that list dispersal becomes necessary.
- Surrey Heartlands Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) recognises the concern caused by this uncertainty and acknowledges that patients have the right to choose alternative practices. However, we wish to assure everyone that we will ensure continuity of access to GP care throughout and, in the event that it becomes necessary, we will work with patients to provide advice and support to re-register elsewhere.
- In summary, there is currently no need for patients to choose alternative practices as Pond Tail Surgery remains open and continues to provide necessary care to its registered list.

Seeking views of patients

Surrey Heartlands CCG is seeking to understand patient priorities for future service provision and what matters most to patients.

Between 10 December 2020 and 8 January 2021, we carried out an informal engagement to advise patients registered at Pond Tail Surgery about the different options under consideration. It is normal and recommended practice to informally engage with patients and the public to help shape options. The Pond Tail Surgery survey closed on Friday 8 January; we are currently analysing the results and on completion will share the findings.

Given the reliance on premises from which to deliver local GP services, and the uncertainty that we face regards the current premises, we have no choice but to explore all of the options available that ensure patients have access to primary care. Once we have reviewed all options and determined which are feasible we will write to every patient at Pond Tail Surgery to update them on next steps. Surrey Heartlands CCG welcomes patient feedback at every stage and all comments will be taken into consideration.

Further information

We have created a [Pond Tail Surgery web page](#) on the Surrey Heartlands CCG website which we will be updating with the latest information as it becomes available.

About Surrey Heartlands CCG

Surrey Heartlands CCG is the merged Clinical Commissioning Group which formed in April 2020 combining East Surrey, Guildford and Waverley, North West Surrey and Surrey Downs Clinical Commissioning Groups. The CCG is part of the [Surrey Heartlands Health and Care Partnership](#), which covers a population of over one million people.