

28th September 2017

Primary Care in Banbury

We are aware of an article in this week's Banbury Guardian reporting on an Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) briefing to the Community Partnership Network. This statement is to clarify the situation for patients and staff.

What is the current situation with the practices and PML?

Principal Medical (PML) is the local GP Federation and is run by local GPs as a 'not-for-profit' company. Practices across Oxfordshire have been using the clinical and administrative support that this network offers for many years now. PML are very involved in supporting primary care services and provide services such as Hospital at Home and an Early Primary Care Visiting Service to support primary care.

PML run Banbury Health Centre.

West Bar Surgery and Woodlands Surgery have been talking with PML about ideas for how we might work more closely together to cope with the ever increasing demands on general practice.

What is proposed to change at the practices?

Integrating the practices to form a new entity could enable us to introduce new ways of working that we are hopeful will enable us to continue our work as local clinicians providing NHS services to our local population.

We all know the hard work and dedication put in by all practice staff, as well as the pressures currently facing primary care – through this project we are hoping to find a sustainable solution that benefits all parties.

A final decision on whether to integrate has not been made. We are working on the detail of what this might look like. PML could take on responsibility for the practices' premises, employing staff and developing a multidisciplinary team model where our highly professional and skilled staff work across the existing practice locations.

PML, Woodlands Surgery and West Bar Surgery would like to include services to the patients of Banbury Health Centre in the integration. Because Banbury Health Centre is run on a different basis, the CCG has to lead a formal consultation on this and have developed options to form part of the consultation. This has been, and continues to be, discussed with patients of the Health Centre through the Patient Participation Group, the practice newsletter and website.

Similarly, Woodlands Surgery and West Bar Surgery have been discussing the proposals with staff and patients.

We would like to reassure patients and staff that nothing is changing immediately. If patients would like to get involved in the Patient Participation Groups to find out more, please contact your practice. Staff who may be concerned should speak to your manager in the first instance. Patients may also wish to speak to the CCG patient services team on 0800 052 6088.