

**Dr R G Padley
Dr S S Shekhawat
Dr D A Jolly**

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**The Kirton Lindsey Surgery
Traingate
Kirton Lindsey
Nr Gainsborough
Lincolnshire
DN21 4PO**

09 January 2017

<Address>

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Only one letter has been sent to each household.

Please share with other family members or residents registered with the above practice.

Dear Patient,

Proposed merger of the Kirton Lindsey Surgery and the Hawthorn Surgery, Scotter

As a patient at Kirton Lindsey Surgery we are writing to advise that we have submitted a proposal to NHS England to merge with the Hawthorn Surgery, located in the nearby village of Scotter. The reasons we are proposing a merger are explained below:

- Both Practices had GP Partners retiring in September last year and needed support to continue to provide services. As a result Dr Jolly has become a Partner at Kirton Lindsey Surgery and Dr Padley and Dr Shekhawat have become Partners in the Hawthorn Surgery, to support each other and share the contractual responsibility to continue to provide GP services to both Practices.
- It is felt that a full contractual merger would provide a much stronger, resilient and sustainable Practice for the future and help improve services that are currently provided across both Practices.

We are committed to keeping all that is best and most valued about General Practice whilst maximising the benefits to patients offered by a larger organisation. The proposed merger will provide patients with improved access to a greater choice of clinicians with the potential to provide a wider range of services. We hope that by combining our 2 relatively small practices, we can continue to provide personalised care to meet the particular needs of our local communities. This would help to sustain the future viability of both Practices within the changing NHS landscape and the difficulties faced recruiting new GPs and Nursing staff locally.

The proposed new Practice would be known as '*The Kirton Lindsey and Scotter Surgery*', and would continue to provide a full General Practice service from their current locations. Kirton Lindsey Surgery would become the main site and Hawthorn Surgery would become a branch site, and patients would be able to attend either site for appointments. All current clinical and reception staff would also continue to be based at their existing sites, but would be able to work across both

sites to cover for holiday and sickness absence. Managerial and administrative functions would be combined to provide efficiency savings and help cope with increasing workloads. There are no plans for any cuts to existing staffing; indeed we are hoping to be able to employ additional clinical staff to better meet the future needs of the combined patient population.

Next steps – Tell us your views

The views of our patients in respect of this proposal are important to us and we would welcome your feedback. We have included a questionnaire with this letter which we would be grateful if you could complete and return by 24 February 2017, either directly at the Practice or by freepost to:

FREEPOST RSSJ-SABB-KKUZ
NL/NEL CCG ENGAGEMENT
5 Saxon Court
Europa Park
GRIMSBY
DN31 2UJ

Alternatively you can visit our website at www.kirtonlindseysurgery.co.uk and complete the survey online.

We know that you may have a number of questions with regard to this proposal and we have included some Frequently Asked Questions which we hope you will find informative.

CONSULTATION EVENTS

In addition to this, we will be holding 'drop in' patient consultation meetings where representatives from both Practices and NHS North Lincolnshire Clinical Commissioning Group will be in attendance to discuss the proposed merger and answer any questions that you may have. These will be held at the **Kirton Lindsey Diamond Jubilee Town Hall** on the following dates:

- **Wednesday 25 January 2pm – 3pm**
- **Thursday 26 January 7pm – 8pm**

We appreciate that you may have some concerns about this and we would like to reassure you that maintaining a high quality service for our patients is our top priority. Through a merger with Hawthorn Surgery we hope to secure a sustainable future for both Practices.

Yours Sincerely,

Kirton Lindsey Surgery

*Dr R G Padley
Dr S S Shekhawat
Dr S Magrabi
Dr T I Cheema*

Hawthorn Surgery

*Dr D A Jolly
Dr K Leadbetter*

Proposed Merger of the Kirton Lindsey Surgery and Hawthorn Surgery, Scotter

Patient feedback questionnaire

It is important we understand your views regarding the proposed merger and ensure that any concerns are addressed.

Please complete the short survey below and provide us with your comments

These will help inform NHS England and local commissioners when considering the merger application. The results of this survey and outcome of the merger proposal will be published in both Practices in due course.

Do you support the proposed merger of Kirton Lindsey Surgery with Hawthorn Surgery, Scotter?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> No preference <input type="checkbox"/>
Please provide details of any concerns or provide comments below:	
With which Practice are you currently registered?	Kirton Lindsey Surgery <input type="checkbox"/> Hawthorn Surgery <input type="checkbox"/>

Thank you for your help and cooperation

Proposed Merger of the Kirton Lindsey Surgery and Hawthorn Surgery

Patient Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

The Partners of both the Kirton Lindsey Surgery and Hawthorn Surgery in Scotter have submitted an application to NHS England to merge. If this proposed merger is approved, the merged practice would be known as *'The Kirton Lindsey and Scotter Surgery'*. The main surgery would be at Kirton Lindsey Surgery and the Hawthorn Surgery would become a branch Surgery, though full GP services will continue to be provided at both sites. Listed below are a number of FAQs that are provided to answer any potential queries patients of the Kirton Lindsey Surgery may have. Any further queries should be directed to Surgery staff.

- 1. Will the Kirton Lindsey Surgery opening times remain as they are currently?** Yes, our opening times will remain the same, including our extended hours opening on Monday evenings.
- 2. Will I still be able to make appointments at my usual surgery?** Yes you will. We will continue to provide a full GP service from both sites, providing daily appointments to see Doctors, Nurses and Health Care Assistants. Indeed, we are hoping to be able to add to our current clinical team to include access to see other healthcare professionals. E.g. Pharmacists for medication reviews, Physiotherapists etc.
- 3. Will I still be able to see my usual doctor or nurse?** Yes you will. All staff and partners (whether clinical or not) will be based at their original site but will be able to work across both sites to cover for absence for annual leave and sickness, helping us to deliver better care.
- 4. Will I be able to see a doctor at either site?** Patients will be able to request appointments with any doctor and from either site. We plan to have 3 male GPs and 3 female GPs on a permanent basis working across both sites. There are also options to see a GP Registrar or FY2 junior doctor who will remain part of our team.
- 5. Will the same number of appointments be available as there are currently at the Kirton Lindsey site?** The permanent doctor staffing of the merged Practice mentioned in Q4 above would represent an increase in doctor availability from the current combined staffing of the individual Practices. This will allow for an increase in the number of appointments currently provided.
- 6. Will I have to go to one of the other sites for particular consultations or treatments?** No, however, if we feel that one site may provide a better or more appropriate service for specific patients – for example a particular doctor at one site may specialise in a specific chronic disease area - you may be asked if you are able to attend there to access more specialised care if appropriate.

7. **Will the practice boundaries change?** No – both practices already have very similar boundaries. We will continue to register and provide services for patients that fall into both catchment areas.
8. **Will the current arrangements for dispensing medicines change?** No, if you live outside of Kirton Lindsey, more than a mile away from an NHS Pharmacy, you will still be able to have your medicines dispensed at the Surgery. For patients that live within a mile of an NHS Pharmacy, you will continue to have the option of either collecting your prescription from the Surgery or allowing us to have them collected from us to be dispensed by Payne’s Pharmacy in Kirton Lindsey, or from any another pharmacy of your choice.
9. **Will any service currently offered be removed or stopped?** No – As a result of the merger all previous commissioned primary care services offered by the Kirton Lindsey Surgery will remain unaffected. All services that we currently offer under the GP contract will continue.
10. **Will any new services be introduced?** We certainly hope so. One of the main reasons for merging Practices is for us to be able to grow and expand the services that we are able to provide locally from within the Practice.
11. **How will the new arrangement benefit the medical staff at the practice?** Medical staff will have a wider pool of clinical knowledge and experience to draw upon and will have more opportunities to specialise; annual and sick leave will be better covered leading to lower stress levels of the remaining staff and less reliance on expensive locum and bank staff. Partners will be able to share the ever increasing administrative work load required of them.
12. **Will there be changes to the way I book appointments?** No, you will continue to be able to book appointments as you do now, either online or by the telephone. We will continue to recall those patients that require scheduled vaccinations, chronic disease reviews or for participation in routine screening programmes (smears, diabetic eye checks etc).
13. **Will there be any changes to how I access the GP out of hour’s service?** No, in order to access a GP when the Practice is closed, you will still need to telephone the NHS 111 service and they will either signpost you to the most appropriate service or arrange for you to access a GP.
14. **Will I need to re-register to remain on the Practice list? Will my health records be transferred?** No, all patients will automatically be transferred onto the new, merged practice list under the name of ‘*The Kirton Lindsey and Scotter Surgery*’ and your health records will remain at your original Practice site. The only way your registration will change, will be if you choose to register yourself at a different Practice.
15. **Will this affect any treatment or medication I am currently receiving either at the GP practice or any Hospital?** No – Any patient’s current treatments, medications or any investigations that they are receiving from any hospital or other healthcare provider will be unaffected, by the merger.