
Branch End News

Drs Feeney, Corbett and Maguire

Branch End Surgery, Stocksfield, Northumberland, NE43 7LL

Telephone (01661) 842 626 Fax (01661) 844 392

APRIL/MAY 2008

Update on Financial Negotiations for Services at Branch End Surgery

Many of you were aware that the Branch End Surgery finances were recently reviewed by the care trust, along with the finances of nearly all the practices in Northumberland.

The care trust wanted to make drastic cuts to our budget, which would have meant considerable changes to the work of the practice and a reduction in patient care starting from April 2008. We have resisted the cuts and negotiated hard and firmly with the Care Trust to preserve services for Stocksfield.

These negotiations have now closed. Contrary to Care Trust information, the solution has not been satisfactory. The good news is that the original drastic cut of 10% will not happen from April. Instead the practice will have a 3% cut this year increasing to 6% in the year following from April 2009. In addition to these cuts, the practice will have to undertake extra work yet to be defined and there is also no guarantee of future income. Services

will be maintained for now, but the developments and improvements that envisaged will not now be practicable and reductions in some areas of our services may become necessary.

Negotiations were hampered by the over riding threat of Branch End Surgery potentially having no contract to provide services from April 2008, and the contract being passed on to international private health care companies. This would have lost forever the continuity of care that individual team members and patients have enjoyed and was felt by us to be a risk too great to take. We therefore felt compelled to accept an unsatisfactory contract.

Times are still difficult and services are still under threat, albeit in a more measured long term manner. We have been very grateful for all the support we have received and will continue to work towards ever improving the care of our patients.

With thanks, Drs Feeney Corbett and Maguire

MAY DAY HOLIDAY

Friday	2 nd May	8am – 6pm
Saturday	3 rd May	CLOSED
Sunday	4 th May	CLOSED
Monday	5 th May	CLOSED
Tuesday	6 th May	8am – 6pm

Deaf/Blind Northumberland Group

The Deafblind group was established when it became apparent that there were people experiencing similar difficulties in dealing with dual sensory loss.

The group is a self – led group which meets on a monthly basis at the Northumberland County Blind Association in Morpeth offering support, information and guidance.

The group is very informal friendly and enjoyed by all members. If you feel that you would benefit from attending or able to offer some voluntary time.

Please contact:

Keith Shepherd

01670 819479

DISTRICT Nurses Changes

There have been recent changes to the District nursing team.

From January 2008 the District Nurses from Corbridge and Branch End surgeries have been working as one team.

The team consists of:-

Denise Thompson - Community Matron

Ann Wagstaff - District Nursing Sister

Dawn Robson – Staff Nurse

Val Anderson – Staff Nurse

Branch End News

Gwen Goodfellow - Staff Nurse

Karen Graham – Staff Nurse

Anne Maddison Staff Nurse

Brenda Dowden – Auxiliary Nurse

The nurses are based at Corbridge Health Centre but call at Branch End daily to liaise with members of the PHCT, attend meetings and collect messages.

Housebound patients will continue to receive home visits, as before and District Nurses will be doing clinics at both practices.

To arrange an appointment at the surgery please ring the surgery number as normal.

To speak to a District Nurse or to arrange a home visit please ring the District Nurses on their direct line 01434 633997

MEETING

Dr Maguire will be a guest speaker at the Parish Council Annual meeting at Stocksfield Community Centre on Monday 21st April at 7.30pm.

Branch End Patient Forum

We are very keen to set up a forum for our patients to meet with us and discuss ways of improving the care we provide.

This matter will be discussed at the above meeting on the 21st April. Anyone interested (especially from the rest of our practice area) is welcome to write to Sue Shone the Practice Manager or telephone the surgery 01661 842626 and speak to her.