



# The Coastal Partnership

## Press Release



The Coastal Partnership is delighted to announce that Beechcroft Surgery and Old Palace Medical Practice will merge from 1<sup>st</sup> March 2017.

Beechcroft site will become the main surgery with Old Palace Surgery becoming a branch surgery with the provision of general medical services from both premises.

We have decided to make this change so that the two surgeries can work more closely together creating one large team with an extended clinical skill mix. In these challenging times this will future proof the two sites and provide for smarter working through economies of scale and also give us a greater opportunity to offer additional registrations to new householders in the area.

The GP partners believe patients will see a number of benefits:

- Patients will remain registered with the practice and generally access their preferred site for their medical needs
- Old Palace patients and Beechcroft patients will have access to services between 8am and 6.30 pm and extended opening hours will be offered across both sites.
- We will be able to offer specialised nursing clinics across both sites, making best use of the skills of our nurses.
- Merging will ensure a sustainable workforce going forward during the challenging times ahead and also allow the ability to manage demand effectively.
- Being part of a bigger practice allows us to better manage the current threats and challenges on Primary Care
- A pharmacist will work across both locations to help with managing patient medication and appropriate conditions
- Using the skills of our larger healthcare and admin team, we will be able to promote healthy life styles and engage screening programmes such as stop smoking services, alcohol management services and obesity.
- We have two associate trainers already working within the two locations with the aim of becoming a training practice ; being part of a bigger team would enable us to support trainees in the practice.

We will be holding a public meeting on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> February from 1300 to 1400 at our Beechcroft Surgery for anyone interested to hear more.

Sharon Marsden   Jan Hardinge   Dr S Patel   Dr S Dhas   Sheila Pink   Rebecca Hardinge  
Practice Manager   Business Manager   GP Partner   GP Partner   BC Site Lead   OP Site Lead

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