

28 April 2023

Drybrook Surgery update

Dear Patient,

Further to my letters of 30 March and 19 April 2023, I am delighted to inform you that NHS Gloucestershire is successfully working with a 'Caretaker', who is committed to providing GP services at Drybrook Surgery from 1 June 2023, when the Mitcheldean Partnership contract will come to an end. Whilst we are yet to enter into a contract with the Caretaker, we are confident that we are in a good position to do so within the coming weeks.

The Caretaker is a local GP, Dr Anna Raymond, along with Practice Nurses Katie Dyer (nee Cook) and Nichola Winstanley. This contract will run until 1 December 2023.

Dr Raymond and the Practice Nurses are familiar with Drybrook Surgery and have existing relationships with patients and staff working there, as they already provide much of the clinical cover at the Surgery.

We believe that this is a great outcome and opportunity as this clinical team will be able to continue to offer high quality care to patients.

The new contract with the Caretaker (once agreed) is intended to start on 1 June 2023 and you should not experience changes in the way you receive primary care medical services after that date; a full range of services will continue to be provided from the current Surgery building. You will remain on the Drybrook Surgery patient list so you do not need to take any action.

Presuming the Caretaker contract is entered into as planned, the procurement for a longer-term solution will then begin as a matter of urgency. This will involve a competitive procurement process, and we will commence this work as soon as possible, with the intention that a permanent contract provider takes over from December 2023.

This is an exciting development, and whilst there is still work to be done to agree the Caretaker Contract and for the longer-term solution; I am really pleased that the future of Drybrook Surgery is more secure.

However, as part of this process, we must inform any patients who currently use the dispensary at Drybrook Surgery that they will no longer be able to collect their prescribed medication from the Surgery. Instead, they will need to choose a new pharmacy to obtain their prescribed medication from. We will write separately to those patients affected by this change in the coming weeks, setting out clearly what they will need to do.

This change is due to the NHS pharmacy regulations; so is outside NHS Gloucestershire's powers. It is a legal requirement due to the nature of the contractual changes.

We are confident that local pharmacies will be able to deliver high quality services to patients and would like to reassure anyone affected by this change that they should not be concerned about their medication supplies. They will be asked to select a preferred pharmacy from which to collect their medication in future and should continue to order their medication in the usual manner.

We will continue to keep patients up to date with progress through letters and information in the Surgery waiting room and regular updates on the Surgery website. We will continue to work with Drybrook Parish Council to ensure two-way sharing of information.

Thank you for your support for the Surgery during these challenging times and I do hope this update is helpful to you.

Yours sincerely



Helen Goodey

Director of Primary Care and Place
NHS Gloucestershire