

22 MAR 2018



**East Leicestershire
and Rutland**
Clinical Commissioning Group

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Dear Councillors Brown and Conde

Thank you for your letter to Tim Sacks in relation to a public consultation on Ketton Branch Surgery being undertaken by Uppingham Surgery. As you are aware, Tim has a conflict of interest regarding this issue and so he is not able to be involved in matters relating to this consultation. However, I would like to provide some clarity which I trust, you will find helpful.

Uppingham Surgery submitted a business case to East Leicestershire and Rutland Clinical Commissioning Group (ELR CCG) in July 2017, seeking permission to begin a public consultation on the future of Ketton Branch Surgery. This is because the practice had been experiencing difficulty in managing and sustaining the site for some time.

Although the proposal was not initiated by the CCG, through our delegated responsibility for primary care commissioning we have to follow a formal process in decision making pertaining to any contract variation.

I would like to offer some clarity around the practice's rationale. This information is also available on Uppingham Surgery's website and at the face-to-face drop in sessions hosted by the practice:

- Only 20% of Ketton's residents use services at Ketton Branch Practice. The demographic of this list is mixed across all age groups.
- 41% of GP appointment slots were unused between January and June 2017
- This lack of demand makes the services unsustainable
- 25% of nursing appointments were unused during the same time
- Ketton offers less flexibility in appointment times as it is a shared premises
- Services that can be offered at Ketton are restricted due to the limited facilities
- Other sites have sole occupancy, so can be utilised for business continuity
- Patients' needs are becoming greater and more complex care is expected to be undertaken in practices – this cannot be offered at the current site in Ketton
- Although the practice has continued to advertise and attempt to recruit a GP vacancy, GP recruitment remains a challenge. This is because fewer junior doctors are entering GP training and more are opting for sessional work once they qualify.

The CCG's Primary Care Commissioning Group was keen to ensure that appropriate due regard was given to patients and so, asked the practice to develop and provide a full and detailed options appraisal before commencing any consultation exercise.

The practice undertook an options appraisal and submitted a detailed business case in November 2017. I understand that you have submitted an FOI request for papers relating to this and the CCG will respond within the 20 working days timescale set out for FOI requests.

As you are aware, Uppingham Surgery began the public consultation on 1 February 2018. It is important to note that the survey is not the only source of feedback –comments made via email, post, face-to-face and online will also be analysed and included in a report to the PCCC, before a decision is made.

The CCG's role is to ensure a formal process is adhered to, including ensuring decisions are based on a fair and appropriate consultation process in line with NHS England guidance. We will continue to work closely with the practice to ensure a fair and transparent consultation process. We are committed to listening to our patients and are working closely with the practice to making changes to the consultation in line with patient feedback. More details will be available in due course.

Uppingham Surgery has three remaining drop-in sessions which patients and members of the public are welcome to attend. These aim to provide detailed information and an opportunity to ask questions:

Wednesday 21 st March	9.30am - 10.30am	Barrowden Surgery
Monday 16 th April	9.30am - 11.30am	Ketton Surgery
Thursday 19 th April	4.30pm - 5.30pm	Gretton Surgery

Please be assured that no decision will be made without considering patient and public feedback first. I hope you have found this information helpful and encourage you to attend any of the face-to-face sessions above, for further information.

Yours sincerely



Jamie Barrett
Head of Primary Care, East Leicestershire and Rutland CCG