

Statement Regarding The Proposed Merger Of Old Farm Surgery **And Mayfield Medical Centres**

We are writing to you to inform you of a proposed merger with Mayfield Medical Centres.

For many years, Old Farm Surgery has been providing a high quality of primary care to the residents of Paignton, particularly those in and around the Foxhole area. We have enjoyed good relationships with our patients. With other local services, statutory and voluntary, we have always valued providing our patients with a high quality of holistic care. This has been evidenced in 2 very successful government Care Quality Commission inspections in February 2016 and September 2017.

We are sure you are aware of the pressures faced by the NHS. There is a huge strain on General Practice budgets. Paignton has already seen the closure of 4 local practices as they merged with larger practices (Manor Road, Bishops Place, Grosvenor Road and Withycombe Lodge Surgeries). In late 2016 it became apparent that Old Farm Surgery was entering a very difficult period with significant financial challenges, such that by early 2017 the practice was facing the prospect of becoming unsustainable by Autumn 2017. This was because small practices in areas such as ours are not able to attract sufficient NHS funding. We were facing the possibility that Old Farm Surgery would have to close, our highly valued staff be made redundant, and our local population needing to travel further to one of the other practices in Paignton

Following Dr Lowes' & Dr Bullen's retirements over the last 3 years, Dr Mark Thompson and Dr Claire Graham set about finding a way to enable the practice to stay open. Since June 2017 we have been supported by Mayfield Medical Centres with a new practice manager and subsequently we have also shared some of Mayfield's other resources, such as a Pharmacist to support safe, high quality prescribing, and most recently a Paramedic who helps us with our home visiting.

We are now at a point where a merger is required to ensure we can stay open. Our experience working with Mayfield make it the appropriate merger partner. We will need to reconfigure the way we deliver care to you, but we have been doing this behind the scenes consistently over the last 15 years as the NHS has transitioned through many changes.

You will still be able to see a GP or Nurse at Old Farm. You will also have a greater choice of clinical staff and a wider range of services with the opportunity to see a clinician at either of the Mayfield Medical Centres sites on Totnes Road or their satellite site at Cherrybrook Square in Hookhills.

Both Old Farm and Mayfield are very proud of our individual practices and the personal care we have maintained over the years. We are pleased that our teams will be uniting as one like-minded team.

The views of our patients are very important and we would welcome your feedback and the opportunity to answer any of the concerns you may have. Any questions can be directed to the Practice Manager, Colin Whitford, via the email address enquiries.mayfield@nhs.net or by completing the merger questionnaire which is available in practices or from the Old Farm Website www.oldfarmsurgery.co.uk.

In addition, we have arranged an informal open evening on Wednesday 15th August 2018 at the Old Farm Surgery between 6pm and 8pm. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss the merger with patients and carers. Please come if you can.