

Press Release - 1st May 2018

Glemsford Surgery invites feedback on future plans to provide a high standard of healthcare for a growing local community

Glemsford Surgery strives to provide excellent, safe and timely healthcare for the local community.

Since Dr Lesser, one of the GP partners, retired in March 2017, the practice has faced a number of challenges and changes have had to be made to secure the practice's ability to provide GP and nurse services.

The GP partners now have to make decisions about developing and modernising the way the practice provides care for all of its patients, whilst maintaining high standards of healthcare, now and in the future.

Over recent months the surgery has reviewed the best way to use its resources to ensure that GPs and clinical staff use their time in the most efficient and beneficial way for the whole patient population. This has meant that the services offered at the Hartest Branch Surgery have significantly reduced and a decision must now be made as to whether any services within the branch surgery can be sustained.

With patient numbers growing fast and 500 additional houses planned in Glemsford by 2020, the benefits of consolidating all resources onto the Glemsford site to provide an improved range of services for all patients is under consideration. As a result, it is possible that the Hartest Branch Surgery will be permanently closed.

Dr Matthew Piccaver, GP partner, said: "The closure of the Hartest Branch Surgery is not an easy decision for us to make. Whilst we appreciate that it has previously been viewed as an integral part of the local community for many years, we have to find a way to move forward to meet the needs of a growing practice population in the face of a national GP recruitment crisis.

"We understand one concern regarding the possible closure is the loss of a local prescription collection point for those who live in Hartest and the surrounding area, particularly for those without their own transport to Glemsford. To help ease this concern we propose to have a weekly medication collection service using the Glemsford Surgery van in addition to our normal provision of medication delivery services."

To help support the decision making process the surgery would like to engage with its patients and the local community to hear views, concerns and ideas regarding the future services at the Glemsford Surgery and the possible closure of the Hartest Branch Surgery.

The surgery is holding two public engagement events and is inviting local people to come along to the one which is most convenient for them:

- **Glemsford Surgery on Thursday, 17th May at 7pm**
Presentation and Q&A
- **Hartest Branch Surgery on Tuesday, 22nd May between 1pm – 2.30pm**
Drop in for information and a chat

The public engagement period will run between 1st May and 11th June, 2018. Further information, including a 'Comments & Suggestions' card, is available at Glemsford Surgery or via the surgery website at www.glemsfordsurgery.co.uk

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