



To all Stakeholders of Ball Tree Surgery and
Kingfisher Family Practice, Lancing, West Sussex

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2nd October 2017

Dear Colleague,

Re: Merger of Ball Tree Surgery in Lancing and Kingfisher Family Practice in Lancing

I am writing to let you know that the two GP practices above merged on 01 October 2017. They have formed a single GP practice operating under the name 'Ball Tree Surgery' and will keep both surgery sites open, at Western Road in Sompting and Culver Road in Lancing.

Ball Tree Surgery and Kingfisher Family Practice are confident that the merger will allow the two practices to share their clinical experience and resources for the benefit of their patients and give them the opportunity to provide a wider range of services. Patients will also have a greater choice of doctors, nurses and options in terms of where they are treated.

The merged Ball Tree Surgery will have a patient list size of approximately 14,500 patients.

The practices are working hard to minimise the impact on their patients, and have sent the attached letters out to advise them of the changes in advance and to support them through this process. The content of the letter has also been made available to patients via the practice's websites and via email and texts. Patients have had an opportunity to submit questions and comments via an online questions and comments box, as well as contacting the GP practices directly for further information.

The CCG is aware that small GP practices that work in isolation can face greater challenges in delivering the necessary range of services to patients, so the merger will enable the larger practice to tackle some of the challenges practices are experiencing both locally and nationally, such as recruiting and retaining the appropriate clinical staff.

In line with the national GP Forward View, it is imperative to retain personalised care for patients and to build upon the strengths of general practice, while also exploring how a wider range of primary care services can be delivered to patients at scale. This means GP practices and other local health and care services are increasingly working alongside one another in a joined up way, to deliver comprehensive, quality care that will support the best possible outcomes for individual patients. It also means working to strengthen the resilience of individual GP practices and looking at how they can improve access to

services for their patients. We are confident that both GP practices have put arrangements in place to support their patients, whilst striving to make the way they work better for their patients and their practice teams.

If you would like to know more about the support the CCG offers practices, or more detail about this arrangement, please don't hesitate to contact me and I will be more than happy to help.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'D. Ellett', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dominic Ellett
Deputy Chief Officer – Performance and Contracting

Enc: Patient letters