



BUTE HOUSE SURGERY and NEWLAND MEDICAL PRACTICE are merging next July to form THE GROVE MEDICAL CENTRE

We are pleased to announce in July 2019 Bute House Surgery and Newlands Medical Practice will merge on the Wootton Grove site, to form one practice and be called The Grove Medical Centre.

Why are you merging?

The main reason for the merger is to ensure the continued delivery of high quality Primary Care services to all of our patients.

The merger will enable your new GP practice to adapt, deliver and respond to the increased challenges ahead. As a merged Practice we will be more resilient and adaptable to change and provide a more attractive place to work.

To date, Sherborne has been sheltered from the many challenges facing other General Practices across Dorset and England. This may not always be the case.

Fortunately, we are still able to offer a high quality, well-run and accessible Primary Care services to our patients. The merger is taking place from a position of strength to become one fully staffed and strong professional practice.

Across the NHS there is a shortage of doctors, nurses and good quality experienced staff. This being the case Sherborne can no longer be assured of a choice of high quality applicants for future vacancies or able to find locum cover easily.

It is important for all of us to ensure that Sherborne retains a robust and vibrant General Practice in years to come. So it makes sense, at this time, to prepare for the future by working together as Patients, Doctors, Nurses and support staff.

Sherborne, and its surrounding areas, have a growing population, which we serve. This, together with people living longer and often with challenging health conditions, places greater demand on the services we provide.

These factors combined with the NHS driving 'care closer to home', ultimately means that much of that extra workload and responsibility will fall to all GP practices to support and manage.

What will this mean for me as a patient?

From 1st July 2019, all patients will belong to The Grove Medical Centre and be able to make appointments to see or speak to any of the doctors or nurses.

In providing patient care, it will be 'business as usual' for you and all of our patients. You will still be able to see your usual doctor or nurse as you do now, in addition we shall offer a wider variety of appointments to see others within the clinical team too.

Our back-office and management functions and processes are being aligned to ensure little direct impact on patient care.

The biggest change will be that you may turn left instead of right or vice versa at the front door. We will ensure you know where you are going and whom you are seeing.

Will you be moving buildings?

The Grove Medical Centre will remain at Wootton Grove consolidating both practices to ensure a better service for patients, such as one dispensary and dedicated treatment rooms for specific and specialist clinical treatments. Our immediate and main focus is to provide excellent primary care for all of our patients.

What about existing links with The Apples Medical Centre

This announcement will not stop existing collaboration and work with The Apples Medical Centre within the town, nor does it inhibit a future merger. We intend to ensure our links and friendships with The Apples Medical Centre will continue and grow.

I have another question about the merger – how do I ask it?

We welcome all comments and questions regarding the merger. To do this you have a number of options;

- Leave your questions in the box at reception
- Contact your own Patient Participation Group by email at Butehouse.ppg@dorset.nhs.uk or visit the Newland Surgery website <http://www.newlandsurgery.co.uk>
- If you wish to speak to an independent group outside the practice you can speak to Dorset Healthwatch via Citizens Advice Service or call 0300 111 0102 or visit their website www.healthwatchdorset.co.uk

All questions and responses will be available and shared via our website and in our practice newsletters.

I want to hear more about this in future?

To ensure you receive our practice newsletters direct to your inbox, please let reception know your email address or you can pick up a printed copy from the waiting room. Alternatively we will put the latest newsletter on our practice website for you to download or you can attend one of our regular Patient Participation Group meetings.