

## North Petherton Surgery Patient Update - July 2021

For a number of years North Petherton Surgery has been a part of Somerset NHS Foundation Trust (SFT). *The past few years have been, and continue to be an incredibly challenging time for the NHS. The added pressures of the pandemic and the ongoing vaccination programme has meant that North Petherton Surgery like all our colleagues across primary care have had to rapidly adapt to ensure the continuation of healthcare in a safe and secure environment.*

Even without COVID-19, the demand on primary care continues to grow. It is important that, as a practice, we consider how we will continue to meet this demand, while ensuring the future healthcare needs of our patients are met.

Over the past few months, SFT, North Petherton Surgery along with Creech Medical Centre, Warwick House Medical Centre and Lister House Surgery (who are part of the same group) have been working closely with Symphony Healthcare Services (SHS).

SHS is an NHS subsidiary of Yeovil District Hospital NHS Foundation Trust (YDH) and a primary care organisation who currently manage 16 NHS GP practices locally. Over the past few months, they have been providing operational and management support to the four practices named above.

Over the last few years there has been much closer working relationships between all health and care organisations including YDH and SFT which is planned to become even more integrated in the future. With these closer working relationships between all parties and the breadth and wealth of specific experience that SHS is able to provide for primary care, we believe that the best option for the future of our practice is to integrate into SHS.

Joining a larger primary care organisation, that still has the support of the acute trusts, and can draw from a wide range of expertise, will provide a stronger future. This will not only ensure the future sustainability of the practices, but it will also enable the practice to draw on the wider workforce expertise within SHS, allowing us to better support the future needs of our patients.

There are no planned changes to staff so you will continue to be contacted and see those currently working in the surgery. Telephone, email and contact details will also remain the same, and so patients who feel they are, or may be unwell should contact the surgery in the way they always have.

We encourage those wishing to get in touch, to do so by Monday 9 August 2021. This will give us time to review and understand all of the comments.

To get in touch, please email the practice via [somccg.northpethertonsurgery@nhs.net](mailto:somccg.northpethertonsurgery@nhs.net) or if you would rather speak to someone directly please contact us on 01278 662223

We are planning to hold a series of online sessions, which will provide an opportunity to discuss the next steps to anyone who would like to be involved. These are intended to take place on:

- Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> August, 9.30am
- Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> August, 7pm
- Friday 20<sup>th</sup> August, 12.30pm

Further information on how to join these sessions will be published shortly.

We will also be developing a series of FAQs, which will be available on our website [www.northpethertonsurgery.com](http://www.northpethertonsurgery.com) by 13<sup>th</sup> August.



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