

Mill Street Medical Centre
Minutes of Extraordinary Meeting
Called by Dr Hargreaves
On Monday 29 April 2019
Commenced at 18.00 hrs

Present	Geoff Almond, Chairman Mike Balmford Glyn Jones David Watkins David Appleton Alan Keenan	Kathryn Campbell Jackie Kells Ann Halliwell Eddie Downs Virginia Griffin Dr Hargreaves & Janette Bonney
Apologies	J Pierce June Cannell	Sandra Appleton

Dr Hargreaves called this special meeting to discuss the NHS/CCG proposals to commence Doctors networking. This will entail working more closely with a group of other of practices in St Helens.

Practices need to inform which network they wish to be in by 15th May, and sign off is expected by CCG by 31st May. That is the reason that this meeting needed to take place at short notice.

It has been discussed that we would be working in localities, ours being Town Centre Locality.

Mill Street Doctors will be following the NHS guide lines in forming their network partners under the new doctors contracts.

The doctors have looked at which network practices would be best suited to work with and have come up with 3 options, with discussions taking place with the relevant ones.

1st option being North area which has practices on the north side of the East Lancs Road & Eccleston etc. geographically this was felt to be a more rural network and too far away from where most Mill St patients live.

2nd option practices is the central area (the locality we are currently in for community services)

3rd option to work with the Spinney Group who have 5 practices under one banner in the central location with 1 in Eccleston.

Doctor Hargreaves has attended a meeting at which the surgeries in the town centre locality (option 2 above) and those of the Duke Street practices attended at which it was quite clear that none of them wanted to put their head above the parapet as lead surgery and it was feared by Dr H. that Mill Street would be left responsible for the other surgeries, and could end up having resources drained from it.

The network has also to agree who would be the clinical lead for the network, This is also funded separately, but through the network bank account.

The difference from what we do now will be forming a network with a group of doctors who between them have approx. 30,000 & 50,000 patients. And that cross working across the practices would consist of the following such as Public & Community health, Social prescribing, Physiotherapy, and also a pharmacist would be available these would all come under the banner of the network.as would extended surgery hours from 7 o'clock to 9 o'clock at night .[not out of hours doctors]

The preferred option for Mill Street would be to work with the Spinney Group of practices being that their ethos is somewhat similar to Mill Street with their doctors worked in St Helens for between 15 to 30 years and also that the Spinney is a training practice as we are and have similar method to ours. Spinney group have 26,000 patients between their practices and with our 11,500 that would be sufficient under the guide lines to form a network.

There are approximately 200,000 patients across the borough, so the town could accommodate a 5th network.

CCG role is to ensure that there are no gaps ie that every patient is covered by a Network

Additional funding from the NHS is available to form these networks and would have its own bank account to fund the new proposals. This is all part of the NHS 5 to 10 year plan for doctor's surgeries.

Dr H has had meeting with the partners of the Spinney Group to open tentative discussions as to joining up to for a network. Further in depth meetings to take place before the dead line.

The committee gave their full backing and support to the doctors in which direction they decided to take for the good of the practice, patients & staff. It was felt by members that professional relationships within any network was pivotal to the success of a network.

Questions were raised as to what impact it will have on the staff and clinicians etc, with the changes cross surgeries working with patients appointments. Staff to be kept on board with all the changes. Dr H said there would be more support from the Spinney Group than there would be from some of the practices in the Central locality. Ie [Duke Street area].

David Watkins requested further information on the out of hours service. Dr H made the following comments 99% of practices do not cover out of hours service nationally. St Helens and an area in the west Midlands are the only areas to do so. Due to pressure form the CCG and the finding that Mill Street funding was not covering the cost of out of hours cover by £20,000 they have now opted out of the scheme and it is now down to the CCG to provide cover for out of hours doctors for Mill Street patients. New service provider to be confirmed in due course.

Dr Hargreaves thanked everyone for coming at such short notice and for their support.