



Newton Place Surgery - April 2019 Newsletter

As always, we start the Practice Update with the latest news on the most important element of Newton Place - the staff:

Sadly Dr Stephen Brown and Dr Suzie Barclay are leaving the practice. They will both be missed by staff and patients alike and we wish them well. There is good news however in that the practice management team is busy finalising details for to bring in two new Nurse Practitioners.

There has been a problem with both sickness among staff and annual leave. To deal with the consequent longer waiting time for appointments, GPs have been doing additional sessions and Locums have been brought in to help out.

Given that at today's date the total patient number is now **18092**, it is easy to see the problems that the staff face. Good then to hear that the Employee Recognition Scheme, which has been running for the past quarter, has had 107 nominations - a great boost to morale!

With the new financial year comes a new GMS contract. GMS (General Medical Services) is the range of healthcare that is provided by General Practitioners (GPs or family doctors) as part of the National Health Service in the United Kingdom.

There have been various changes to the contract, which the team will be working through and putting into practice. There is a focus on "Primary Care Networks", which means that there will be much closer working with Faversham Medical Practice.

Something that most patients are keen to know about is the **Building Project!**

The team is still busy working through the various processes with the CCG, NHS England and the project team, all of whom meet regularly. Some funding has already been received to decorate the meeting room; this will make it possible to use the room as office space once the extensions are complete. The kitchen will also be refurbished over the next few weeks.

The tenders have now been received and regrettably all came in over budget. The project team is now busy trying to trim these down and discussing finances with NHSE.

Watch this space for more news!

Clinics:

The Ultrasound provider has been changed to Whitstable Medical Practice. They are still coming to Newton Place weekly, providing an excellent service and can also do NG3 scans for urgent cancer referrals. The turnaround for these scans is 5 working days. If patients are not able to be fitted into the clinics at Newton Place Surgery, they can be seen at Whitstable Medical Practice.

The following clinics are also now running:

Weight Loss Clinics

Stop Smoking Clinics

Red Zebra (for social prescribing).

And that's all the news - as you can see, the staff both medical and administration, continue to work very hard to keep patients well under often very difficult circumstances.