



Date 21/11/2023

Dear Patient,

Planned changes to Bramham Medical Centre

As a patient of Bramham Medical Centre, we are writing to seek your views on our plans to merge Bramham Medical Centre with Wetherby Surgery.

One letter has been sent to each household and we would appreciate it if you could share the content with other family members registered with the practice.

NHS West Yorkshire Integrated Care Board (which organises the delivery of NHS services in the Leeds area) have accepted a request from both practices to carry out a period of 'patient involvement'. This means communicating with, and hearing back from, registered patients about our plans. We are keen to hear your views.

The merger of Wetherby Surgery and Bramham Medical Centre.

In July 2023, Bramham Medical Centre and Wetherby Surgery began working more closely together under one GP Partnership. Our partnership provides primary care services to 7400 people registered at either Bramham Medical Centre or Wetherby Surgery. As part of these changes, we are now applying to officially merge our two practices. Whilst the practices are managed by the same partnership, we wish to implement a full merger which would see services delivered under one, rather than two contracts.

The permanent closure of Harewood Surgery

As part of this involvement exercise, we are also talking to patients registered at Wetherby Surgery about the branch site at Harewood. The site has been open intermittently since the pandemic and more recently has been closed since November 2022. This closure began under the previous partnership and as the new partnership, we have been unable to put a new lease in place for a building which requires further work to meet modern healthcare standards. We are planning to secure additional space at Wetherby Surgery to ensure we have sufficient estate. Whilst this is a change that does not directly impact patients of Bramham Surgery, we want to be transparent in sharing this with you as part of the involvement exercise.



Benefits of a fully merged practice

Merging Bramham Medical Centre and Wetherby Surgery will result in a number of benefits for patients and staff including:

- **Improved choice** – the opportunity for patients to choose where they receive healthcare appointments, for example, if an appointment is available at the other practice sooner and is more convenient.
- **Access to more services** – patients will have access to a wider range of medical appointments and services for example joint injections and contraception.
- **Working in partnership** – we can share resources such as staff. Working in this way means that we will be more efficient and be able to spend more time providing better and more consistent care to our patients.

The views of our patients are very important to us. We would welcome your feedback on both of our plans and the opportunity to answer any questions you may have. You can provide feedback in the following ways:

Fill out our online survey here: <https://re-url.uk/WUY5>

Don't worry if you aren't able to access the survey online – we can provide paper copies at reception in our practices or if you would like a survey posted to you, please contact us to request this. We can provide the survey in alternative formats on request (such as alternative languages or easy to read). We will also send you a text message which will include the link which will take you directly to the online survey.

Please complete the survey by 31 December 2023.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) about our proposals is available on our website <https://www.bramhammedicalcentre.nhs.uk/>. Paper copies are also available at reception.

Public meetings

We will be holding face to face drop-in meetings to give our patients the opportunity to discuss our proposals. Representatives from the two practices and the Leeds office of the NHS West Yorkshire Integrated Care Board will be happy to answer any questions that you may have.



Wetherby Surgery

www.wetherbysurgery.co.uk

Partners:

Dr S G Lovisetto

Dr P Kemp

Mrs S Drury - Managing Partner



Bramham Medical Centre

www.bramhammedicalcentre.nhs.uk

Dates for these sessions are as follows:

- Wednesday 13th December - 2pm to 3pm Drop in event, Harewood Village Hall
- Wednesday 13th December - 6pm to 7pm Virtual drop in event on Teams please email bramham.mc@nhs.net or wetherby.surgery@nhs.net to request the meeting invite and joining link.
- Thursday 14th December – 10am to 11am Drop in event, Bramham Pavilion

You don't have to go to the practice you are registered at to attend, please come to the one that is easiest for you. They are open sessions, so you don't need to book.

Yours sincerely

Partners of Bramham Medical Centre & Wetherby Surgery



Proposed merger of Bramham Medical Centre and Wetherby Surgery including the closure of the Harewood Surgery site

Frequently Asked Questions

Questions about the merger:

Why are we merging?

Both the services in Wetherby and Bramham are small. Increased demand for primary care and reduced resources are making it increasingly difficult for the practices to provide care alone. By merging the practices, we will be able to share staff and resources, making us more flexible and adaptable in the future (resilient).

Why is the Harewood Branch Site closing?

The site has been open intermittently since the pandemic and more recently has been closed since November 2022. This closure began under the previous partnership and as the new partnership, we have been unable to put a new lease in place for a building which requires further work to meet modern healthcare standards. As part of this change, we are seeking additional space at Wetherby Surgery to continue to meet the needs of our patients.

Was this the plan when the Harewood branch dispensary closed in 2019?

The closure of the dispensary was a separate decision and was at the request of the previous partnership. Therefore, there was never any longer-term intention at the time to move to eventually proposing a full closure. Estate for delivering health care services must meet nationally set standards for example relating to infection control or disabled access. Harewood Surgery does not meet these standards and so it would not be practical to enter into a lease on a building that was not suitable. As part of this process, we are working to understand how much it would cost and if it is indeed possible to make the required changes.



Will this mean I need to re-register with the new merged practice?

No, you do not need to take any action. You will remain registered with the practice.

Does this mean that it will be more difficult to get an appointment? You should find no change with getting appointments at your current surgery. However, you will also be able to be seen at either of the sites. We also hope the merger will make it easier to offer a wider range of appointments.

Will there be any changes to opening hours?

No, there will be no changes in the hours that both surgeries are open.

Will the surgery at Bramham still be dispensing my medication as a qualifying dispensing patient?

Absolutely, we will still be a dispensing practice for qualifying patients and medication will still be available to collect or be delivered as per your current arrangements.

Will I still be able to book an appointment using online access?

Yes, you will. Access to online consultations and requests will also continue via the Accurx online triage service.

Will I still be able to book a home visit?

If you are a patient who, due to medical reasons is unable to leave the house to attend the surgery, we will continue to provide home visits where appropriate.

Will I still be invited for my long-term condition annual review?

Yes, you will be contacted to make an appointment when it is due, which is usually your birth month each year.

Will I get to see the same GP all the time at my practice?

Depending on the nature of your condition you may see the same GP. All our GPs want continuity and when treating and managing long-term conditions this is in the best interest of the patient.

Who makes the decision about what kind of appointment I am offered?

This depends on the nature of problem / condition – a same day appointment will be offered if it is needed. A planned appointment may be offered if the medical complaint isn't urgent. We will continue to ensure patients are seen according to the urgency of their need.



Wetherby Surgery

www.wetherbysurgery.co.uk

Partners:

Dr S G Lovisetto

Dr P Kemp

Mrs S Drury - Managing Partner



Bramham Medical Centre

www.bramhammedicalcentre.nhs.uk

When you call the surgery for an appointment our patient services team ask questions to make sure you are seen by the most appropriate health care professional, which might not be a GP.

What types of appointments do you offer?

We offer a variety of appointments, face to face, telephone or online. We offer appointments with several different healthcare professionals both during normal opening hours, in the evening, and at weekends.

What happens next?

Our involvement exercise will run until the end of December 2023. As part of this we want to hear the views of patients and other stakeholders such as local councillors, practices, and pharmacies.

At the end of the involvement period, we will write a report that will be available on our website. We will share this with the ICB in Leeds who will make a final decision on March 2023 based on the plans and the outcome of the involvement exercise. If the merger is approved, then we would implement this from 1 April 2024. If the closure of Harewood is agreed, then this would mean that the site will not reopen.