

To all registered patients at Northdown surgery

Dear patient

Future of Northdown Surgery

We are very pleased to tell you that, after significant discussions between practices, we are proposing in the next two years to merge our practice with Bethesda Medical Centre.

We are awaiting approval by NHS Thanet Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) for this proposal.

If approved, this would mean you, as our patients, benefitting from having access to a larger team offering a bigger range of services, working with others such as community nurses, health visitors, social care, mental health workers, voluntary organisations, and community groups.

We already work closely with Bethesda, so this proposed merger would build on our current partnership.

It would also mean you having access to the expanded health centre currently being planned on the Bethesda site in Palm Bay Avenue, Cliftonville.

Money is being invested through NHS England's Estates and Technology Transformation Fund for a £6.5million extension to the building at Bethesda. This will allow everyone to get all the medical and nursing services that you expect in much more modern and accessible space, along with a gym and a community café. The vision is that it will be a place that enhances the healthcare we can give, and that helps and encourages people to stay fit and healthy.

It has been clear to all the health and care professionals in Margate for some time that we need to change the way we look after people. We need to do more to help people stay well, make sure everyone is seen by the right person when they need medical advice or treatment, and offer a team of professionals with different skills and knowledge to care for people whose health is more complicated.

Although we do our best to provide you with an excellent service, we could do more in a better base, and as part of a bigger team. That is why we are so pleased that, if all goes according to plan, by 2020 we will be joining the staff at Bethesda Medical Centre and working closely with them.

There is no immediate change for you – we just wanted to let you know that we plan to make the most of this exciting opportunity.

We are in discussions with transport providers about public transport to the new site and will be in touch later this year with more details.

We are planning drop-in sessions at the practice in May or June for you to ask any questions and will run a short survey to capture your views and concerns about this proposal.

Kind regards

The Doctors