



INCREASING ACCESS TO A GP

You have the opportunity to have your say in helping to mould the shape of services being offered in the future by the Solihull GP Alliance. Dorridge Surgery being a member.

You are probably aware that NHS England are anxious to allow access to a GP over the weekend from 8 am to 8 pm on both Saturday and Sunday.

As you would imagine no single surgery could operate this additional service by itself, but this could be achieved by the surgeries in the Alliance providing a service on a rota basis. This would mean that you may not be directed to your own surgery but elsewhere in the Borough.



As a reminder the Alliance Practices are:

Grove Road Surgery, Shirley Medical and Blossomfield (Bernays and Whitehouse)

Monkspath Surgery Hobs Moat Medical Centre

Jacey (Jacey based at Northbrook, Dickens Heath Medical Centre)

Dorridge Surgery

Hampton Surgery

Arden Medical Centre

Balsall Common

Richmond Medical Centre

St Margarets Medical Practice

Haslucks Green Medical Centre

Grafton Road Surgery

Reference to the Survey appears in the News section on the front page of the Surgery Website, however, you can go to the survey direct from this newsletter.

Please take the time to complete the Survey by clicking [here](#)

Meanwhile.....



ALL CHANGE.

Dr Fish has finished his time at Dorridge Surgery and we wish him well in his future career.

Dr Stephanie King has joined the practice and will be with us until April 2018, her photograph will be included in the next newsletter.

Meanwhile.....

As you are aware **Dr Simon Watts** retires at the end of this month, a man who shies away from the spotlight, but commands great respect from his patients.

Following the announcement of his ultimate retirement one patient put pen to paper and we quote as follows:

"I'm sad to see Simon retiring; he's been a real tower of strength to me for years and years. Nonetheless I wish him a long, happy and healthy retirement which is well earned. I'm certain that many many people feel the same way as I do."

Come the New Year, we plan to give you a little background to **Dr Karen Lim** who will join the partnership.

Meanwhile.....

You may not be aware that there is a borough wide network for Patients Participation Groups meeting on a bi-monthly basis. Representatives from the Dorridge PPG have been involved since it's inception and is now well represented on the Steering Committee which implements the direction that the Network will take. This next year will see a push to establish a PPG in every Surgery in the Borough.

Meanwhile.....

If you do not receive a copy of **'Heart and Soul'** the quarterly patient newsletter from the **Heart of England Foundation Trust**, just click on the link below to access all the newsletters over the last 12 months.

<http://www.heartofengland.nhs.uk/membership/hs-drop-down/>

Meanwhile.....



Solihull
Clinical Commissioning Group

What to do if you are unwell over Christmas and New Year

Care for yourself at home

If you have a common health issue, like a cough, cold, sore throat or headache make sure you get plenty of rest and take your usual painkillers or medicines, if you need them (always read the label).

Call your GP

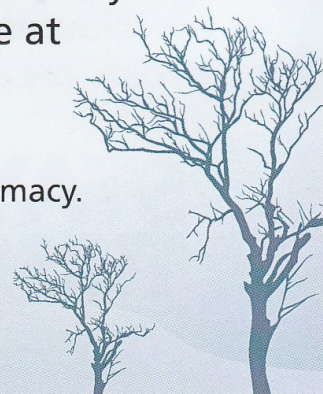
Your GP surgery will be closed on the following days:
Monday 25 December, Tuesday 26 December and Monday 1 January.

However, you can still phone your GP surgery and follow the instructions on the recorded message, which will help you find the best NHS service for your needs. This service is also available when your GP surgery is closed on other days.

Ask your pharmacist*

Pharmacists are highly trained health professionals and they can offer advice on many common health problems and medicines. There are lots of pharmacies in the area and you don't need an appointment. Find your nearest one at www.nhs.uk or by calling NHS 111.

*please check pharmacy opening hours with your local pharmacy.



Call NHS 111

You should call NHS 111 if you urgently need medical help or advice, or are not sure which NHS service you need. It is staffed by highly trained advisors, is free to call and open 24/7.

Urgent Primary Care Service

If you have an urgent health problem, that you would usually see your GP about, you can use the Urgent Primary Care Service at Solihull Hospital. This service is open daily from 8am until 8pm. No appointment is necessary, but please call NHS 111 for advice before you attend.

Minor Injuries Unit

If you have an injury or illness, which is not life threatening, you can visit the Minor Injuries Unit at Solihull Hospital. They can help you with things like: sprains and strains, cuts, broken bones, minor burns and scalds, minor head injuries, animal bites and minor eye injuries. They are open 24/7 and no appointment is necessary, but please call NHS 111 for advice before you attend, if possible.

Accident and Emergency (A&E) and 999

Please remember that calling 999 and going to A&E is for serious and life-threatening emergencies only e.g. loss of consciousness, severe chest pain, severe blood loss, suspected stroke, breathing difficulties and severe burns.

**STAY WELL
THIS WINTER**

There is another survey which needs your comments

Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment – have your say!

Solihull Council would like to hear your views on a draft Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA) which will help ensure residents have good access to local pharmacy (chemist) services.

This is a follow-up consultation from a survey carried out in September asking for people's views on pharmacy services in Solihull.

The draft PNA looks at the current provision of pharmaceutical services across Solihull and whether they meet the current and future needs of residents, identifying any potential gaps in services.

NHS England will use the PNA when making decisions regarding applications for new or changes to, existing pharmaceutical services. It will also be used by NHS England, Solihull Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and Solihull Council to inform their commissioning of local pharmaceutical services.

The draft PNA has been put together on behalf of Solihull Health and Wellbeing Board using the analysis of local health needs, local information, intelligence, and surveys with the public and pharmacies.

Please read the draft PNA and share your views by completing a short survey. They can be found on Solihull Council's website, just [click here](#).

The closing date for the consultation is **Monday 22 January 2018**. Your answers will be used to inform the final PNA which will be ready for publication by 1 April 2018.

Meanwhile.....

Keep Warm and stay healthy.

