

Community Bulletin

Issue 4: 22 May 2015

NHS England launches survey to inform long-term GP contract for North Tawton

Now that Bow Medical Practice has taken over the running of North Tawton Surgery on a one-year contract, following some internal work on the premises, NHS England is beginning to consider the potential shape of GP services for the longer term.

This is a real opportunity to look afresh at what is needed locally and to find the best way of meeting those needs. The starting point is a survey to find out more about key issues, such as:

- How people in and around North Tawton use services at the moment
- What they might require in the future
- Opening hours
- Travel arrangements
- Accessibility

The survey runs from 1 June to 30 June. The surgery's existing patients will be written to with details of how to respond.

However, people who are not registered with the surgery may still take part. If you would like to provide your views, please:

- Go online: www.engage.england.nhs.uk
- Or pick up if you would prefer to complete and return a we are hoping to make these available from the Post Office, Town Council Office or North Tawton Surgery

The existing engagement group will play a key role. Members have already worked with NHS England on the survey questions. Once the results are in, they will help with the analysis of what people say and how that should be reflected in a contract for prospective providers.

This will mean looking at key issues such as the range of services, the demand for extended hours, and whether the area would better be served by a standalone practice or by the branch surgery of a bigger practice.

The aim is to develop a service specification by early August, so expressions of interest can be sought.

Discussions can then start with potential providers, possibly leading to a competitive process if there are valid alternatives. A final decision will be needed to enable a full contract to be in place from April 2016.

Anyone interested in getting involved can contact NHS England's contract manager Caroline Stead

Email: caroline.stead@nhs.net

Tel: 0113 824 8961

If you would prefer, you can also discuss any of these issues with a member of the engagement group:

- For North Tawton residents, please contact Sue Knott on 01937 82393 or Keith Badman on 01837 82701
- If you live in the surrounding parishes, including Bondleigh, Honeychurch, Sampford Courtney and Coldridge, please contact Bill Dean on 01837 82168.