

# Ecclesfield GP news

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### Partnership News

Following our last Newsletter we can now confirm that both Dr's Jeavons & Ledingham have retired from the practice leaving our 4 GPs Dr's Butcher, Oliver, Hackney and McCoye as partners of Ecclesfield Group Practice.

### Salaried GPs

We have further recruited Dr Jessica Sibson as salaried GP along with our earlier recruits Dr's Mansoor & Subasinghe. Jessica has been employed since early September and we wish her a long and successful career at the practice.

### GP availability

The practice now has 7 Doctors who are providing more clinical sessions than we have ever had previously. However, none of our GPs work full time in the practice and therefore, we are conscious that patient requests to see a specific GP are often difficult. For continuity of care for chronic diseases we will endeavour for patients to see their usual GP, however it is useful if patients can plan and book in advance in order to see their GP of choice. For acute daily problems, it is often the case that patients may be required to see any GP who is working at either of our sites at the time of a particular request.



### Appointments

We offer a pre-bookable service where patients can book in advance up to 4 weeks. This offers flexibility to patients enabling them to choose a day and time that suits them. Our online booking for appointments continues to work well and we are pleased with the feedback that we have received from patients who have registered for this extra service. If you would like to register for online booking please ask our receptionists for more details.

However, for people who need to see a doctor on the same day, we also reserve a number of appointments. We have a telephone surgery that runs every morning until 10am: alternatively you can also ring **NHS Direct** on **0845 46 47**.

## Margetson Surgery

We are aware that in the press over the past few months there have been a number of articles relating to a new GP surgery in the Parson Cross area. We are keen to dispel any rumours that we intend to close Margetson Surgery. The practice have been involved in discussions with our Primary Care Trust about the implications of this new build upon the services we offer our patients and the possibility of us moving to this new development. Early in the New Year a public consultation period will be seeking views from local patients. At this moment in time, we may or may not be part of this new building. There is no requirement for us to move from Margetson Surgery and were the proposed building to go ahead without us, we could continue to operate as we do at present. We hope that this clarifies the situation.

## Ecclesfield Premises

We hope that patients have benefited from our new automatic doors at our Ecclesfield premises and we have had positive feedback from patients with regards to the fish tank we have installed in the waiting room. We believe this is a lovely feature and along with the addition of a radio we hope this creates a pleasant environment for our patients. We are also planning the redecoration of our waiting room in the coming weeks.



## Sheffield Children's Charity

Finally, Kerry and Simon would like to thank all our patients who helped contribute over £200 towards the above charity by sponsoring their half marathon run in September. Simon completed the run in 2hrs 9mins and in total Kerry has helped generate over £15,000 towards the hospital.



## Ecclesfield Practice Patient Group

Hello my name is Doris Stow, I was recently asked to become Chair of the Practice's newly formed Patients' Group and I was delighted to accept the invitation. We have been meeting each month with representatives from the Medical, Nursing, and Management Team to talk about ways in which the Practice might develop and improve the important services that it provides for patients. Not that much improvement is needed in my opinion!

I really do think we are fortunate to have a team of dedicated, committed and gifted staff working towards our good health and wellbeing. Having said that, the "professionals" have appreciated our views as "service users", and have already taken on board a couple of our suggestions.

We asked that the patients waiting areas at both surgeries be brightened up. Margetson surgery has already been redecorated and it now looks very welcoming I must say! Similar work is planned to start shortly at Mill Road.

The Group has been involved in another couple of areas as well. We have worked hard to spread the word about the availability of internet on-line booking for appointments with our doctors and nurses, including same-day bookings. I am pleased to say that the number of fellow patients using this method for booking has increased. Patients have found it to be quite straightforward, provided they have access to a computer of course! We have been in discussion with Practice staff about any possible move away from Margetson surgery to new

state-of-the-art premises at Buchanan Road. No decisions have been taken yet, and we have asked that patients' views are taken into account when the future of Margetson surgery is being decided.

Well that is a brief look at the work the Group has been doing since we first met in June 2009. We always welcome new members to the Group, so if you are interested in joining us, please give me a ring on (0114) 2452026, or our Vice-Chair Dorothy Black on (0114) 245 6684. Finally, on behalf of the patients, could I welcome our three new doctors to the Practice. I hope their stay with us will be a long and happy one. Could I also wish everyone connected with Ecclesfield Group Practice a happy Christmas and a healthy New Year.