



Ecclesfield GP

news

Staffing Changes

Dr Paul Jeavons

Many of our patients will be aware that Dr Jeavons has been absent from the surgery since October of last year. Since he remains unable to work through illness he has recently informed the practice that he intends to retire later this year. It is therefore very unlikely that he will return to provide clinical work for the practice before his retirement. The practice has in the meantime sent Paul and his family our best wishes on behalf of all our staff and patients.

Dr Stephanie Ledingham

Many will also be aware that Dr Ledingham had retired from the practice at the end of last year. Given the illness of Dr Jeavons and the tragic death of Dr Colin Shawcross, (who was covering many of Paul's sessions), she has kindly agreed to provide some additional cover for us as a locum GP for the practice.

GP Locums

With all the above changes patients can be reassured that the practice is working hard to establish some continuity for our patient population. The past 9 months have been extremely difficult for everyone associated with the practice and we would like to thank you all for bearing with us. We are conscious that we have needed to employ a significant number of GP locums in recent times, for longer than we would have either liked or expected and acknowledge the difficulties this has caused for both our staff and patients. Over the coming months we will again begin a further search in order to find a suitable replacement for Dr Jeavons, in hope that we will soon have a complete team.

Extended Hours

As many patients are aware we have been offering extended hours appointments since October 2008. The additional opening hours are Wednesday 6:30pm-8:00pm and Saturday 8:45am-11:00am aimed at patients who find it difficult to attend during the normal working day. These sessions are for pre-booked appointments only and whilst our surgery doors will remain open to all patients until 8pm on a Wednesday evening, on a Saturday morning; our doors will remain closed to all unless an appointment has been booked. Patients can contact our Out of Hours provider via the surgery number for medical advice when the practice is closed.

Dr Ibtahal Mansoor

As part of replacing Dr Ledingham we recruited Dr Ibtahal (Ibby) Mansoor as a salaried GP to the practice. She started with us on 1st January 2009 and we wish her a long and happy stay at the practice. Ibby has a specialist interest in Women's Health and education.

Dr Mali Subasinghe

In order to try and add additional appointments to our weekly allocation we have also recruited Dr Mali Subasinghe. Mali will also be employed as a Salaried GP and started at the practice on 2nd April 2009 and we also wish her all the very best with her career at the practice. Mali has a specialist interest in family planning, diabetes and education.



Premise Developments

We hope patients like our new automatic opening doors at Ecclesfield. These were recently installed in order to improve access to the surgery and we will continue with any additional modernisation work to ensure that our practice remains as welcoming as possible for our patients. Our Margetson site has not been forgotten, but our efforts remain blighted by mindless vandalism and seemingly, all our attempts to improve our branch site are quickly negated. We will however continue to make any necessary improvements to the surgery.



National Patient Survey

Many of our patients will have, over the past couple of years received a patient questionnaire from the government. These will continue in the coming months and the Government now link these surveys into a significant amount of funding for the practice. We believe it important to inform patients that without this funding, we cannot offer some of the additional benefits we aim to provide for our patients.

If patients have any comments either positive or otherwise, these will always be well received by our Practice Manager and dealt with accordingly. Our practice leaflet explains the full procedure for dealing with such comments, and more formal complaints. As a practice, we are keen to address any issues in order that our patient survey results give a true reflection of our ongoing efforts.

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Kerry Newton

It is with great sadness that we announce to our patients that Kerry's baby boy, Benjamin, died aged 3 weeks earlier this year. Kerry has been a wonderful addition to our nursing team and the practice wish to do everything possible to help her and her family through this devastating time. Kerry is currently considering when it appropriate for her to return to clinical work and has asked us to inform patients of this situation. She is aware that everyone will wish to pass on messages of support but the practice would ask that when she does return to work, patients respect her need for privacy over this tragic situation. Kerry and her husband Dan are, as a mark of their gratitude for Sheffield Children's Hospital, organising a charitable fundraising run on 13th September 2009. In our support for her, our Practice Manager, Simon Kirby will be running in this event and anyone wishing to contribute can make a donation, either in the practice, or via their charity website:

<http://www.justgiving.com/benjaminnewton>

Patient Forum

We have for a number of months been looking to set up a patient forum group, but for many of the reasons highlighted in this issue, this has not been possible. We have a number of patients who have previously registered an interest in this group; and welcome any further interested patients to contact our Practice Manager.



Janet Wardle

Many patients will by now have met our new practice nurse Janet Wardle. Having started with us in November and now settled in, Janet becomes the third member of our nursing team and she is looking forward to adding additional nursing care for the practice.

A Baby Girl!!

The practice would like to congratulate our Information Manager, Gillian Hanby on the birth of her second child, Freya Eve. We look forward to seeing Gillian back at work later in the year.