



7th November 2018

PRESS RELEASE:

**Consultation launched on proposals to change 7 Day Access to
Primary Care Services in Durham Dales, Easington and Sedgefield**

On Wednesday 7th November 2018, NHS Durham Dales, Easington and Sedgefield CCG will launch a six week formal public consultation on proposals to change 7-day access to primary care services.

Commissioners want to talk to the public about proposed changes to the GP 'hubs', which are GP Practices or groups of practices working together offering additional appointments after 6pm on weekdays and additional appointments on a weekend.

Following public consultation about urgent care services, the CCG introduced nine new 'extended primary care hubs' across the area on 1st April 2017.

It was agreed at the time to review the service after six and 12 months which involved engaging with members of the public and local GPs. The review highlighted that the 'hubs' were valued but were significantly underused, with the appointments being made available being double the national requirement.

The CCG wants to hear people's views about their recommendation to deliver the extended primary care service from a reduced number of hubs located in;

- Bishop Auckland (Dales area)
- Spennymoor/Newton Aycliffe and Sedgefield (Sedgefield area)
- Peterlee/Seaham (Easington area)

A number of public consultation events have been arranged, where people can find out more about the plans and have their say. The times and dates of those events are shown in the table below. If you wish to attend please register by calling 0191 371 3222.

DATE	TIME OF EVENT	LOCALITY	LOCATION
Sat 17th Nov	Weekend 10am-12noon	Easington	Easington Colliery Club
Wed 21st Nov	Daytime 10am-12noon	Sedgefield	Spennymoor Leisure Centre
Sat 24th Nov	Weekend 10am-12noon	Durham Dales	Wolsingham School
Mon 26th Nov	Evening 6pm-8pm	Durham Dales	GlaxoSmithKline, Barnard Castle
Thu 29th Nov	Evening 6pm-8pm	Easington	East Durham College, Peterlee
Tue 4th Dec	Daytime 10am-12noon	Durham Dales	Bishop Auckland Rugby Club
Thursday 6 th December	Daytime 10am-12noon	Easington	Seaham Town Hall
Sat 8th Dec	Weekend 10am-12noon	Sedgefield	Newton Aycliffe Youth Centre
Mon 10th Dec	Evening 6pm-8pm	Sedgefield	Sedgefield Community College, Sedgefield

People can complete an online survey at www.haveasay.org.uk or if they require a hard copy can collect one from a number of local community venues such as GP practices, libraries and also from NHS Durham Dales, Easington and Sedgefield CCG who are based at Sedgefield Community Hospital.

Further information is also available on the CCG website www.durhamdaleseasington-sedgefieldccg.nhs.uk

The CCG is keen to hear from local people about what other services could be delivered as part of the new service. This could include home visits for the frail/elderly, pre-bookable appointments, help with transport etc.

Dr Stewart Findlay, Chief Officer, NHS Durham Dales, Easington and Sedgefield CCG said: "Our priority is to commission services that reflect the health needs of our entire population. It is clear from the numbers we are seeing in the current nine hubs that many of the appointments we made available were not being utilised and this is

simply not a good use of NHS resources and the valuable skills of our healthcare professionals.

“We believe that the changes we are proposing will ensure that people will be seen at the right place, by the right healthcare professional at a time and location that will be convenient for them.”

Ends.