**Workington General Practice Information**

**Patient Letter**

26 November 2020

Dear Patient

Our 5 Workington GP Practices already work closely together to provide the same day service at the Workington Primary Care Centre and the home visiting service, and we believe the time has come for us to look at ways of working together more formally. A merger of practices will enable GPs and staff to work more closely together and improve patient services, now and in the future.

Historically:

We know that many of our patients find it difficult to get an appointment in a timely way.

We are struggling to recruit GPs and other healthcare professionals into small practices.

We know our staff are very stretched.

We believe that building on the work of the last six years we can improve services and that there is the potential to ensure that everyone has access to see healthcare professionals that specialise in specific long term conditions – not all practices can offer that at the moment; that we can improve access to seeing a range of healthcare professionals more quickly; and that we can support our staff who are under increasing pressure.

It is important to all our GPs that we have a plan for our patients and our community. We feel we have reached the point that doing nothing is not an option.

It is important that we do this with our patients. We understand that change can be difficult for everyone and are therefore asking for your help:

We want to hear your concerns so we ensure we can address any potential worries.

We also want to hear your ideas - how can we improve the experience for patients?

You can leave your views here…

[Workington Patient Survey](https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/LBKZXH8)

You can email your thoughts here [Enquiries@northcumbriaccg.nhs.uk](mailto:Enquiries@northcumbriaccg.nhs.uk)

Or you can write to your Practice and mark your letter Workington Project and either post it to your Practice or put it through the front door.

We feel that this is a great opportunity and believe in time we can make real improvements to access and services for patients.

**Dr Niall McGreevy**

**Workington Primary Care Lead GP**

On behalf of:

* Beechwood Group Practice
* James Street Group Practice
* Orchard House Surgery
* Solway Health Services
* Oxford Street Surgery