



Dear Patients

The Colte Partnership (Super Partnership) GO LIVE 1st June 2017

General Practice has been experiencing many pressures over the last couple of years and there have been many worries on how best we can sustain general practice to continue with the excellent service we currently offer to all our patients. 11 local practices with an overall patient population of over 118,000 have joined forces and started on a journey to form a Super Partnership called The Colte Partnership.

It's all about making sure that patients get the best service possible from their local surgery.

Many doctors are frustrated because they have to spend too much time on paperwork, administration and management. The Colte Partnership will be looking at time-consuming administrative, financial and management activities centrally, so the doctors in each surgery can get on with looking after their patients. It's also a way of sharing best practice between GP's. When something is working really well in one surgery we share it with others, so all patients benefit from a great experience. We can use our joint resources to develop new services and try new and better approaches to meet the changing needs of our patients.

It help your GP Practice get more for its money, because as a large group we have much more bargaining power with suppliers than one surgery on its own. And in the same way, we can strongly influence our partners and other providers (like hospitals and care services) to give our patients the support they need. Being part of a larger group we aim to have a loud voice in health policy, locally and nationally. We're powerful together, protecting our GP Surgeries from threats of closure or budget cuts. We help flourish and improve instead of fighting to survive.

What does this mean for you the patient?

On the surface you won't notice any change to your usual service. You'll still visit your local surgery and see the same doctors nurses and practice staff.

Over time, if there are changes, they should be positive ones for you, like being able to get an appointment easier, because your doctors have more time to spend with you. You might find that your GP can access more partner services, more quickly, to help with your individual needs. For instance, support in the home from community care providers, local hospital services and social services.

Being part of the Super Partnership provides security for both patients and doctors. It means practices aren't at risk of being taken over by private companies or hospitals. It means they can make sure their patients' needs come first, by influencing local policy and decisions about healthcare.

We hope you are as excited as we are with this development. If you would like more information please contact the Practice Manager.