

**Wadhurst Medical Group**  
**(Incorporating Belmont & Ticehurst Surgeries)**  
**St James's Square Wadhurst TN5 6BJ**

**Dr Andrew Blackburn**

**East Sussex CCG**

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**[www.wadhurstmedicalgroup.co.uk](http://www.wadhurstmedicalgroup.co.uk)**

**Date: 28<sup>th</sup> October 2021**

Dear Patient,

**Re: Wadhurst Surgery Future Planning**

This letter has been sent to each household of those patients aged 70 and over.

We are sure you are aware that, over the past few years, the pressure on general practices has been growing, with GP recruitment being one of the major challenges we face. As you may be aware during the past 5 years, we have gone from a five partner practice down to just Dr Blackburn as the last remaining partner. Dr Blackburn aims to well-deservedly retire at the end of 2022.

We are proud of our practice and the personal care we have maintained over the years and have always been touched by the positive feedback and support from our patients. However we recognise that, in order to preserve high quality general practice that is robust and sustainable for the future, with the patient at the centre of that care, we need to look at working differently to secure the future of the practice for you, our patients.

After many months of discussion we have decided to share working arrangements with Sussex Primary Care. This is an organisation that has been established by Sussex Community NHS Foundation Trust (the NHS organisation that provides local community services, such as community nursing).

These new working arrangements will help to support the practice in areas like finance, maintaining buildings and other administrative functions. They will also create a closer working relationship between our practice and other community-based services, like community nursing, to provide better care for you.

What this means for you and our staff:

- The practice stays open in its existing premises. We are still looking for a new site to build a purpose built practice and this project is still very much in the pipeline.
- We carry on providing services for you in the same way that we do now.
- All of the staff, GPs, Nurses, Reception and Admin carry on working, but become employees of Sussex Primary Care.
- We will get help, advice and support from a larger NHS organisation to help us deal with the pressures that we and all local surgeries are facing.

You will not notice any changes. All of our doctors, practice nurses and other staff will continue to be available to you; the name and identity of the practice will remain the same; your registration with the practice and your day-to-day contact with the practice will not be affected.

**You do not need to take any action as a result of this letter.**

In the longer term, we plan to integrate our services more closely with community-based services, to improve access and efficiency.

We think this is good news for our patients, our staff and the services that we provide. We feel very positive about this and hope this reassures you that the practice will continue to stay open, providing services as it does now and that you will not notice much difference.

If you have any specific questions, then SPC would like to hear from you. You can get in touch with them in the following ways:

- Write to us at the practice address (above)
- Email SBC at [sc-tr.sussexprimarycare@nhs.net](mailto:sc-tr.sussexprimarycare@nhs.net)
- Call us on the following dedicated line: 01273265800. During busy periods you can leave a message and we promise to listen to them all.)
- Please do not telephone the surgery.

We look forward to continuing providing care for you in this enhanced way.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sue Smith', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

**Sue Smith | Practice Manager**  
Wadhurst Medical Group