

From
The Chairman: Anthony Austin
The Abbey View Medical Centre
Patients Group

Talbot House
3 Salisbury St
Shaftesbury
SP7 8EL
01747 852588

1st September 2014

Dear "Fellow Patient"

The
General Practice of
Abbey View Medical Centre
&
Fontwell Magna Surgery

Is merging with

The General Practice of
Sturminster Medical Centre
&
Marnhill Surgery

This was formally announced on 14 August 2014 jointly by the Abbey View and Sturminster Newton Practice Managers.

Attached, at the end of this letter, is a copy of the leaflet (*which is also available on line and in hard copy at the Practice*),

The merger is due to be completed for 1st April 2015.

How is it likely to affect us?

I believe that this merger will bring substantial benefits to Patients in both practices.

Why?

1. The two separate practices have a wealth of individual expertise amongst the General Practitioners and this will be available to all of us.
2. There will be greater choice and flexibility as we will be able to choose our nearest centre more easily.
3. Both Practices have highly skilled and trained support staff.
4. The increased "size" of the Practice will ensure that it has greater weight in the planning of Dorset NHS services to our benefit.

There are other benefits; as Patients in an expanded "practice", our opinions and the opportunity to put forward our views will be even more important and effective. Both Practices have already been committed for over 3 years, to consulting with "patients" and this letter is going to you and over 450 people who have signed up for this sort of information.

I believe we should welcome this merger and the opportunities it brings to us. I commend it to you.

On the “leaflet” published on the surgery website, Dan Burnham, the Practice Manager invites people to call/contact him at the Practice about queries or questions.

My email address is anthonyaustin@btinternet.com, my phone number is 01747 852588 and any comments would be welcome.

Please let me have your reactions to this and also, could you please pass this letter on to others you might think would welcome greater detail.

If, for any reason whatsoever, you are worried about the future that is being planned, it is essential to let us know; it might highlight a need that has been overlooked.

Yours sincerely,