

Nettlebed Surgery Newsletter

Practice & Patients in Partnership
Issue No: 01 (April 2024)

Welcome

Welcome to the inaugural edition of the Nettlebed Surgery Newsletter. Our goal is to present you with insights and updates about the surgery that are as informative as they are beneficial.

Thank You Note:

We extend our heartfelt thanks to the valued members of our patient community who have graciously shared their email addresses with Secretary of the PPG Committee, Dilys Wilde.

We also thank all PPG committee members & Trustees of the Nettlebed Surgery Medical Trust for meeting with Dr Ravpreet Kaur and Dr. Harman Singh in March to discuss updates from the surgery.



Dr. Ravpreet Kaur
Qualifications: MBBS, MD, MRCGP.

Update on Nettlebed Surgery

All services at the surgery are operational as normal. There is an ongoing Transformation program, which we hope will not impact on our services or the standard of care we provide.

Please continue to read for further information about transformation program.



YOUR PPG COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Anthony Morris, The Chair
Dilys Wilde, The Secretary

New Member: Annabel Boshier

Stalwart Members:


Gillian Ovey,
Wendy Ayre-Tilbury and
William Murdoch.

Nettlebed Health Talks

We're very pleased to have delivered a successful health talk on Heart Health.


Nettlebed Surgery would like to thank all the patients who were able to attend our first talk .

We will be looking forward to arranging more talks, on the topics discussed in our last PPG meeting, soon.

 Visit your local pharmacy for help with seven minor conditions which used to require a GP appointment.

- 1 Sore throat
- 2 Sinusitis
- 3 Shingles
- 4 Urinary tract infection (in women under 65)
- 5 Impetigo
- 6 Infected insect bite

Pharmacists have been backed by the Government and the NHS to provide a new 'Pharmacy First' service.

 Find the service at a pharmacy near you: <https://bit.ly/3vPV09F>

Background

For nearly three decades, Nettlebed Surgery has stood apart from the norm by nurturing a close-knit environment reminiscent of traditional family practices. Led by Dr. Silver and Dr. Barton, Nettlebed Surgery has epitomised the cherished dynamic of the family doctor. Yet, the landscape of general practice is shifting.

According to the British Journal of General Practice in order to be sustainable the UK healthcare system requires that about 50% of new UK-trained graduates in medicine need to enter family medicine as GPs. In reality only 20% of UK medical graduates have elected for General Practice as their first choice of future career. This percentage has been largely unchanged over recent years. Alongside this there are retention problems with the GP workforce, with increasing numbers of GPs choosing to leave.

Against this difficult background Dr Silver and Dr Barton were seeking to relinquish Partnership to someone who they could be confident held the same values as they do. This is why they selected Dr Ravpreet Kaur. There are other avenues that Dr Kaur could have chosen to pursue in her career, but she believes in General Practice; she cares about her patients' health and wellbeing; she believes in the importance of family and the concept of a family doctor. Dr Kaur believed that with the help of the previous partners, who moved to become Salaried GPs, Nettlebed Surgery could continue as the successful small family practice it has always been.

Dr. Kaur's investment goes beyond the financial; it is a pledge to sustain the legacy of personalised care that has long been the hallmark.

As we navigate these times, the disparity between expenditure and income has become more pronounced. Nonetheless, the resolve within our team has only strengthened, as we continue striving to provide exceptional care in the face of adversity.

How Practices are Funded

For those that are unaware, GP practices are independent businesses. The premises, its upkeep, day to day expenditure in providing the services, including staff costs (Salaried GPs, nurses, other healthcare professionals and administration staff) are borne by the Partners who own the business. In the case of Nettlebed Surgery, this is now Dr Kaur.

The practice receives income from the NHS for supply of the services. However this is against a national formula. Over the years however income has failed to keep pace with expenditure – a sentiment that we know will be shared by our many patients involved in running a business or managing a household budget.

Partners do not receive a salary. Their 'pay' is dependent on drawings from the 'business' i.e. income minus expenditure.

Decisions

In the immediate future, recalibrating our finances will necessitate tough decisions, involving a strategic review with external consultants, and leaning on the patience and support of our patients and staff. We express profound thanks to our team members, who have demonstrated remarkable dedication during this challenging period, despite the potential impact on staffing.

To date, the impact has been the reduction of three part-time nursing roles through voluntary and necessary redundancies (the equivalent of 0.75FTE). While it's with a heavy heart that we consider further reductions, it is crucial to underscore that these measures are being taken to ensure the long-term sustainability of our practice.

We wish to reassure our patients that the total number of clinical sessions will not be compromised and will remain consistent with the model that has been in place since 2021.

These changes, although difficult, are pivotal in positioning Nettlebed Surgery for continued provision of quality healthcare in the years to come.

We are aware that we are not alone in facing these decisions, similar trends have been observed in healthcare practices nationwide.

Summary

At the core of our practice lies an unwavering commitment to the health and wellbeing of our patients and the dedicated team that serves them. Amidst ongoing deliberations to chart the best course forward, Dr. Kaur's resolve to ensure the longevity and integrity of Nettlebed Surgery is as steadfast as ever.

These are indeed trying times for everyone connected to our practice. Our staff continue to demonstrate remarkable commitment, going above and beyond to meet our patients' needs under challenging circumstances. We recognize the potential for frustration during periods of change and deeply appreciate your patience and understanding.

We humbly request the continued support and kindness towards our staff, mirroring the care and respect they consistently extend to our community.

Together, we stride towards a future where our surgery can continue to serve you with the standard of excellence you've come to expect from us.