

Primary Care Commissioning Committee Monday 12 June 2023 – Questions and Responses

No.	Question	Response
1.	<p>Dear Sir/Madam</p> <p>I would like to ask the following question on Monday regarding Agenda item 7:</p> <p>'Duncan Baker MP recently surveyed 1700 users of Blakeney Surgery. Of those who responded, 99% disagreed with the decision to close Blakeney Surgery and 96% would use it if open. This demonstrates strong public opposition to this proposed closure. How can we be reassured that Holt Medical Practice will undertake the consultation phase fairly and without prejudice?'</p> <p>Thank you very much indeed. Yours faithfully, Dr Victoria Holliday Elected Member, Coastal Ward Chair, Cley Parish Council Director, NorfolkALC 07557054629</p>	<p>The report being presented to the Primary Care Commissioning Committee on Monday 12 June clearly sets out the requirements on any provider wishing to apply to close a branch surgery. This is in line with our advice note and the Policy Guidance Manual (PGM), both appended to the report.</p> <p>Paragraphs 5, 6 and 7 of the report set out the following:</p> <p>5. As part of the consultation process and options appraisal stage, the practice would need to focus on how patients in Blakeney would be supported to access services. The practice would need to take health inequalities into consideration such as transport, rurality, site accessibility, whether any reasonable adjustments would need to be made, vulnerable patients, health inclusion etc. and set out how the practice could support them if an application to close Blakeney branch surgery was progressed.</p> <p>6. Prior to submitting a formal application for closure to the ICB, a period of patient engagement would need to be carried out ahead of any formal application to close, with assurance given that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Norfolk’s Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Local Medical Committee and Healthwatch had been consulted b. There were alternative and suitable primary medical services arrangements in place for patients c. A period of consultation had taken place and any issues relating to patient travel/access to services had been considered d. All feedback had been reviewed and discussed before the application was progressed.

		<p>7. The process is estimated to take 3 months, which includes the consultation period.</p> <p>Once the consultation period closes, should Holt practice choose to proceed, the practice will write to NHS Norfolk and Waveney, formally applying to close their branch surgery.</p> <p>The resulting outcomes report would be considered by the Primary Care Commissioning Committee before any decision is made. NHS Norfolk and Waveney will review information provided by the practice against the requirements in the advice note, as well as the PGM and provide feedback to the practice.</p> <p>Primary Care Commissioning Committee members will review any report against the requirements on the practice before making their decision on an application to close.</p> <p>This will include a full review of the outcomes of the consultation and other relevant information.</p>
2.	<p>Holt Medical Practice – Proposed Closure of Blakeney Surgery Branch Site</p> <p>Question asked by Sheelin Cuthbert:</p> <p>Are you and your Committee aware of the problem of accessing the surgery at High Kelling by public transport? The buses do not run daily and only go to Holt where it is necessary to change to another infrequent bus to Sheringham in order to get to High Kelling.</p>	<p>We would expect to see consideration of transport and impact on any groups of patients included in the final application, along with any considerations raised through the engagement process.</p>

	<p>Another problem which has arisen recently is that the Blakeney taxi man has recently retired so no taxi service in the village. Thirdly, if as an elderly resident of one of our local villages you rely on a friend for a lift to Blakeney surgery, your driver can visit the Spar shop in the village which sells most things and has a post office so the driver can use the journey for more than just taking you to the Drs. Car parking is also free!</p> <p>I hope your committee will listen to the concern of local elderly people who now are the majority in the area, as you probably know North Norfolk has the reputation of having the most elderly residents of any constituency in the UK.</p>	
3.	<p>Question Re. Planned closure of Blakeney Surgery Tom and Stephanie Green</p> <p>Is the planned closure of Blakeney Surgery based on management or clinical considerations, and if it were to proceed, what mitigations are planned for access to primary health provision for patients living in the sizeable outlying coastal communities such as Blakeney and Morston?</p>	<p>It was confirmed in the meeting it was not a planned closure at this stage. During the application process we would expect to see the reasons behind any final application for closure and any mitigations around access.</p>

<p>4.</p>	<p>In respect of Holt Medical Practice – application to close Blakeney Surgery branch site. Question received from Alexandra Hooper:</p> <p>The proposed closure will increase the distance residents of Stiffkey have to travel to access their healthcare from a 6 mile round trip (6 minutes by car and 16 minutes by bus EACH way) to a 22 mile round trip (23 minutes by car and 2 hours by bus EACH way) – Could the committee please tell me,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. How has the issue of transport and the environmental impact been taken into account when proposing the closure of the Blakeney Surgery? b. How have plans accounted for the impact of this proposal on some of the most vulnerable and poorest residents given the time and financial cost is significant 	<p>These issues will be considered as part of any final application, including undertaking an equality impact assessment. There is also an opportunity for these considerations to be raised during the engagement phase of the process, which will be undertaken by the practice.</p>
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5. Victoria Holliday confirmed she had already submitted a question in writing but was not assured within the response provided that the consultation would be fair and without prejudice as it was being carried out by the practice itself.

Sadie Parker (SP) confirmed the requirements around the engagement were clearly set out in the national policy guidance manual and our processes and Primary Care Committee would have oversight of the whole process. SP went on to confirm that ICB staff would be available to the practice to provide any support and guidance throughout the consultation and Healthwatch support could also form part of the process. SP confirmed that a final report would come to Committee which would give Commissioners the opportunity to raise any concerns about the process and any concerns from ICB officers would be highlighted as part of the report. Members would then be able to ask any questions and if they were not satisfied with the consultation that had taken place, they would not approve at this stage of the process.