

Primary Care Commissioning Committee Monday 12 June 2023

Question:

Dear Sir/Madam

I would like to ask the following question on Monday regarding Agenda item 7:

'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?'

Thank you very much indeed.

Yours faithfully,

Dr Victoria Holliday

Elected Member, Coastal Ward

Chair, Cley Parish Council

Director, NorfolkALC

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Response:

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.

Paragraphs 5, 6 and 7 of the report set out the following:

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.

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:

- 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.

7. The process is estimated to take 3 months, which includes the consultation period.

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.

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.

Primary Care Commissioning Committee members will review any report against the requirements on the practice before making their decision on an application to close.

This will include a full review of the outcomes of the consultation and other relevant information.