

IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING THE PROPOSED MERGER OF HAWKSHEAD AND AMBLESIDE MEDICAL PRACTICES

(Larger print copies of this sheet are available at the Hawkshead surgery).

Hawkshead Medical Practice and Ambleside Medical Practice are considering merging to provide medical care for residents and tourists in the Central Lakes area.

WHY ARE WE CONSIDERING THIS?

- Both practices want to ensure that our patients have access to **good quality local medical care** in the **long-term**.
- A larger patient population will enable us to be in a better position to attract services that will move out of hospitals under the Better Care Together strategy.
- A larger practice will be able to react more positively to the increased workload which all practices are seeing and will continue to see in the future.
- Sharing of resources will provide greater financial security for both practices and will improve **equity** of medical care across the Central Lakes area.
- We will be in a stronger position to attract more GP trainees who may stay in the area.

WHAT WOULD THIS MEAN FOR OUR PATIENTS?

- More **regular** GPs working together will mean better continuity of care, with fewer locum doctors and more appointments available even during holiday periods.
- **All patients** would have access to GPs and/or Nurses on three sites- Hawkshead, Ambleside and Grasmere.
- We can provide a **wider range of services** to **all** our patients by sharing expertise and manpower.eg. minor surgery, contraceptive services, minor injury services
- Patients will have access to **more appropriate** services e.g. Phlebotomy and Practice Nurse services at a range of sites.
- The practices will continue to develop close working relationships with the pharmacies in each village to ensure patients and visitors are given the best appropriate care.
- Some changes will be required in the services at each site. We have designed these to ensure that we allocate resources to maintain the current service levels.

WE WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR VIEWS OR QUESTIONS

We believe that working with the Ambleside Practice is essential to future-proofing your GP services. We understand some of you will have comments and questions about this **so please**:

- contact any of the GPs at Hawkshead or Ambleside, **in writing** if possible with your questions. The address for the Hawkshead Medical Practice is The Old Forge Surgery, Red Lion Yard, Hawkshead, Cumbria, LA22 0NU. For the Ambleside surgery it is the Ambleside Group Practice, Rydal Road, Ambleside, Cumbria, LA22 9BP.
- place your comments in the comment boxes which are available at both surgeries.
- come to the Public Meeting on the 16th Sept, 730pm at the Hawkshead Market Hall.
- please look out for updates on our websites, in the surgeries and in local media.

Thank you from all the GPs at Hawkshead and Ambleside Medical Practices.