

IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR PATIENTS

It is with great regret that St Paul's Medical Centre has had to give notice to the CCG (Clinical Commissioning Group) that we will no longer be able to offer services at Ashfield Medical Centre from 31st March 2016. This is because, in spite of extensive and continuous advertising, we have not been able to recruit another GP to replace Dr Evans, who retired at the end of March 2015 and sadly Dr Johnson will also be leaving us at the end of March 2016 to go to another practice. We have not been able to find anyone to replace her either.

Overall therefore, we will have 2 full-time GP principals fewer than before, and although we have been able to recruit one part-time Nurse Practitioner, this is not sufficient for us to be able to operate both St Paul's and Ashfield safely.

The CCG has accepted our resignation and I believe has explored various options and discussed the problem at length before coming to the conclusion that the list will have to be disbursed, i.e. patients will have to register at other local practices.

We will be able to accept a good number of patients at St Paul's, as Drs Power, Ganti and Surtees will be transferring their clinics back there. We believe that all other practices in the locality, including those within Moor Park, also have open lists and will therefore be accepting patients.

We will be writing to all of Ashfield's registered patients early in the coming weeks. It has not been possible to write earlier as there have been various processes to go through and the CCG needs to make sure other local practices are aware of the situation and ready to accept new patients. There is no rush for you to register elsewhere, as we will be continuing as normal until mid-March, but equally you can register elsewhere from now if you wish.

As recruitment of GPs to Blackpool at the moment is proving to be very difficult, and the decision both to resign from the contract and to disburse the list were only made with great regret and after exploring all possible alternatives, it is hard to see how a reversal of the decision would be possible.

2 Dec 2015