
Media Release

Friday 14 July 2017

Re: ST LUKES AND GREENSWOOD MEDICAL CENTRE IN BRIXHAM, JOINS FORCES WITH NEW NHS HEALTHCARE ORGANISATION

This week, St Lukes and Greenswood Medical Centre in Brixham joined Symphony Healthcare Services Ltd, strengthening local GP services. It becomes the sixth GP practice to join the NHS primary care organisation.

Dr Paul Johnson, GP Senior Partner from St Lukes and Greenswood Medical Centre described the new partnership “Over the last few years, as many of our patients will know, we have found it increasingly difficult to meet the growing demand on healthcare services at the centre. We believe that by joining a larger NHS healthcare organisation we will be in a better position to secure healthcare services for our local community. We have explored a number of different options both locally and further afield and are confident that Symphony Healthcare Services will be able to provide the stability and innovation required to enable St Lukes and Greenswood to provide a long-term, high quality primary care service that can adapt to meet our patient needs.”

GP practices joining Symphony Healthcare Services will benefit from the support of an experienced central team as well as closer working between healthcare colleagues and GPs from across the organisation.

Symphony Healthcare Services (SHS) was launched in April 2016, as part of the Symphony Programme vanguard, to provide much needed stability and sustainability for primary and secondary care in Somerset. Since the launch, Symphony Healthcare Services has grown to support GP practices in a wider geographical area, particularly those who share the same pressures of recruiting and retaining GPs and the increasing pressure on healthcare services from a growing population and ageing demographic.

Director of Primary Care at South Devon and Torbay CCG, Mark Procter said: “This is a really positive move that will strengthen GP care in Torbay at a time when we know it’s difficult to recruit doctors and cope with rising workloads. I am confident that this partnership will provide stability of GP services in Brixham and that patients at St Lukes and Greenswood will continue to be able to see the same doctors and staff. Symphony has good links with Torbay and I am sure that patients will benefit from this tie up.”

Symphony Healthcare Services Managing Director, Mandy Seymour-Hanbury said “We are delighted that St Lukes and Greenswood Medical Centre has now joined together with our existing GP practices. When we were contacted by St Lukes, we identified that we shared many of the same challenges and vision to create a sustainable high quality healthcare service for now and in to the future. “

“Many families have grown up with the support of their local healthcare practice and it is this local service that we want to maintain and develop through Symphony Healthcare Services; introducing new approaches to the way in which NHS services are run. By establishing a larger, better supported organisation we can work together to manage and develop our practices and address the challenges that they face such as recruiting and retaining new doctors. By developing the healthcare services and support available in primary care, we can ensure we provide the right care for our patients in the right place and help to avoid unnecessary admission to hospital.”

Patients will be able to contact St Lukes and Greenwood Medical Centre in the usual way. To register as a patient at the Medical Centre, or for any enquiries about the services provided please contact the centre on 01803 852731, or visit the website www.stlukesmedicalcentre.co.uk

For more information on the Symphony Programme, or Symphony Healthcare Services, please visit: www.symphonyintegratedhealthcare.com

Ends

Notes to Editors

- The Symphony Programme is nationally recognised as one of the most well-developed NHS PACS (Integrated Primary and Acute Care Systems) vanguard sites. Created to develop an integrated healthcare system to provide more individualised, flexible patient care in a cost effective and efficient way.
- Symphony Healthcare Services (SHS) was first set up in April 2016, through a unique partnership between Yeovil District Hospital and GP practices in Somerset, to help support primary care to deal with the growing challenges of GP shortages and increasing, more complex patient healthcare needs.
- Five GP practices have already joined SHS; Buttercross Health Centre, Yeovil Walk in Centre, Ilchester Surgery, Highbridge Medical Centre and Crewkerne Health Centre.
- In July 2017, St Lukes & Greenwood Medical Centre in Brixham, Devon became the sixth practice to join SHS
- Since its initial launch, SHS has grown to support GP practices across a wider geographical area in the south west, in particular those practices who share the same challenges of recruiting and retaining GPs and an increasing demand on healthcare services from more complex long-term health conditions and an ageing demographic
- Practices will also benefit from the additional support of an experienced central team, providing support with back office functions as well as clinical expertise, enabling GPs and practice healthcare teams to focus more on patient care
- SHS will enable closer working between primary and secondary care and help patients to access the right care in the right place, as more specialist and integrated services are developed in the community.
- Through the Symphony Programme vanguard, new models of care have been introduced across 17 GP practices in south Somerset. New roles such as Health Coaches, MSK practitioners and Pharmacists have been introduced to provide additional support to patients to maintain a high quality of life at home, helping to avoid unnecessary hospital admissions. A complex care service has also been introduced as part of the model to help support patients with the most complex medical conditions.
- SHS is an NHS healthcare organisation, providing primary care health services within the south west.

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