

Stakeholder response from Llanrhian Community Council.

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## CONSULTATION ON FUTURE OF SOLVA SURGERY

Further to the online meeting for local councillors on 30 Jan 23, I am writing on behalf of Llanrhian Community Council with comments on the future of Solva surgery.

As outlined at the meeting, we understand there to be four options:

1. Transfer the surgery to another GP practice
2. Transfer the surgery to an alternative provider
3. Continue the surgery as a managed practice, run directly by the Health Board
4. Dispersal of patients to other GP practices

It was explained that option 1 and 2 would take some time to arrange, and that this could not be achieved before the present GP retires at the end of March 2023. The only short term options are therefore numbers 3 and 4.

It was reported that there are circa 2,500 persons currently registered with the Solva practice, and that around 1,700 of these live in the St David's area.

With regard to the dispersal option, our view is that it would be highly undesirable for an extra 1,700 patients to be transferred to the St David's list. This is for the following reasons:

- a) The St David's practice is already full for new patients.
- b) There is no clarity or guarantee of extra staffing at St David's surgery. It was explained that this would be a matter for the St David's practice to determine, given the extra funding that would be transferred.
- c) Even if extra staffing is provided, there is not enough space in the St David's practice building to create additional consulting and treatment rooms.
- d) Access to the St David's surgery is already made difficult by the lack of parking. This could be even more problematic in summer months when it is difficult to find parking spaces in St David's. By contrast, the Solva surgery has adequate parking and easy access.
- e) The addition of so many new patients would likely worsen the service provided to existing patients, and increase waiting times.

Given the serious consequences of dispersal for the St David's practice, which will also apply to patients being moved to the Fishguard practice, we strongly believe that the only short term option is to continue the Solva surgery as a managed practice (option 3). We are aware that this has the overwhelming backing of the Solva community, supported by the Future of Solva Surgery Working Group.

If Solva surgery is retained, we see scope for closer working between the St David's and Solva practices, for the further integration of the Solva practice with local voluntary groups, and for the expansion of outreach services for the benefit of the wider community in the St David's peninsula.

Longer term, we would like to see a strategy for the development of health and social care services in the area. It appears to us that this has been lacking to date and that opportunities to improve access to services have been missed in recent years, for example for Hywel Dda to have supported the development of a new combined GP practice on land near the St David's Visitor Centre, when this became available for development. Private housing has now been built on this land but we would like to see consideration given to other possible sites in St David's, and for exploration of this possibility with the County Council and Coast Park planning authorities.

In conclusion, we would like to re-iterate our strong opposition to the dispersal option for Solva patients.

  
Llanrhian Community Councillor

31 January 2023