



## The Swan Medical Group

Liphook Village Surgery is delighted to announce its plans to merge with The Swan Surgery in Petersfield to form The Swan Medical Group.

It has been widely reported in the media that the NHS is facing a particularly challenging time, having to deal with an increasingly aging population which has more complex health needs. But it is not just demands for our services which are increasing. There are also increasing demands on the limited NHS budget, which can only stretch so far. And there are also increasing problems, both locally and nationally, in recruiting GPs and nurses to work in General Practice. Local authorities are also facing the strain on resources for social care, which obviously also has big implications on health. That is why we are acting now, to pool our resources and clinical expertise to ensure the long term sustainability of our Practices and enable us to look at how we can also extend and expand on those services and how – and when – you can access them.

We have carefully considered what a merger will mean to you. We believe it to be the best way to ensure that we continue to provide the best service we can to our patients. We see the key reasons and benefits of the merger to be:

1. Improved resilience of NHS services in the locality so we can continue to provide high quality general practice services and also allow us to extend services in the future.
2. Liphook patients will have access to extended hours on Saturdays and early mornings as well as the existing evening surgeries, in addition to greater access to acute, planned and preventative care.
3. Patients will have greater choice of GP as the merger will mean there are 10 Partners (6 male and 4 female) as well as 5 salaried GPs (1 male and 4 female) offering good choice for patients.
4. Patients will have improved access to a highly skilled nursing team offering improved long term condition management for conditions such as asthma, COPD and diabetes.
5. Improved IT systems and telephony supporting a more efficient organisation which will allow economies of scale by sharing back office functions and practice administration.

Our surgery in Liphook will remain open providing care for you but you will also be able to access services through Swan Surgery in Petersfield. We will develop a consistent approach across both sites with services and best practice being extended across the newly merged group over the months ahead.

We anticipate that the merger will take 12-18 months to complete but we will be one organisation from 01 April 2017. You will remain with your registered GP at Liphook Village Surgery but you will be able to have greater choice in being treated at a time suitable to them through access to more clinical staff.

In a joint statement, Dr Andrew Holden of the Swan Surgery, and Dr Ed Sylvester of Liphook Village Surgery, said "This is a really positive and exciting announcement at a time of significant pressure for the NHS. Our joint vision is to offer our patients simple and reliable access to urgent care services each day, supporting specialist GPs providing planned healthcare interventions including family planning or minor surgery, and co-ordinated management of long term conditions by our joint specialist team. By working together we can also offer greater access to preventative care, such as improving the self-management of illnesses and long term conditions, providing robust services to our frail and vulnerable patients to stop deterioration at a much earlier stage, and extending services in new and exciting ways."

Anyone wishing to raise any concerns can write to or email Jane May, Practice Manager, email [janemay@nhs.net](mailto:janemay@nhs.net)